

Chairman's Report





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

COMMISSIONERS

PAT MCCRORY
Governor

DONALD VAN DER VAART
Secretary

SAMMY CORBETT
Chairman

MARK GORGES
Wrightsville Beach
CHUCK LAUGHRIDGE
Harkers Island
JANET ROSE
Moyock
JOE SHUTE
Morehead City

RICK SMITH
Greenville
MIKE WICKER
Raleigh
ALISON WILLIS
Harkers Island

June 8, 2016

Dr. Roy Crabtree, Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Dr. Crabtree:

The North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission wishes to express its gratitude for your agency's efforts in working with our state and with Virginia to seek ways to prolong the 2016 recreational fishing season for cobia while still staying consistent with recreational accountability measures outlined in the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan. As you know, cobia is an important recreational fishery for both states, and we are seeking alternatives to limit harvest other than the recommended June 20 season closure.

At its May business meeting, our commission considered the analysis your staff prepared that included various combinations of size and vessel limits and resulting closure dates in order to extend the fishing season. Our commission deliberated on this issue at length and ultimately passed the following conservation measures for the recreational harvest of cobia:

- Establish a May 23-Sept. 30, 2016 season.
- A 37-inch fork length (measured from the tip of the snout to the fork in the tail) minimum size limit for all recreational fisheries.
- Anglers fishing from private boats may only fish on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays under daily possession limit of two fish per vessel or one fish per person if only one person is on board.
- Those fishing from the shore or shore-based structures (pier or surf) may fish seven days a week with a daily possession limit of one fish per person.

- Those fishing on a for-hire boat (charter or guide) may fish seven days a week with a daily possession limit of four fish per vessel or one fish per person if fewer than four people are on board.
- Those practicing catch-and-release may fish seven days a week.

While these measures do not specifically match any of the size/vessel limit combinations your agency prepared, we did attempt to achieve similar reductions in harvest with this suite of restrictions. We feel that our plan will be equal to, or more restrictive, than your agency's measures and therefore, feel we are consistent with the goals of the federal fishery management plan. We hope you will find that these measures will assist in constraining recreational landings to the annual catch target; therefore, allowing North Carolina to stay consistent with the recreational accountability measures for cobia in the federal fishery management plan.

Again, we appreciate your willingness to work with us on this important issue and look forward to your response on the actions our commission has taken.

Sincerely,



Sammy Corbett, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

cc: North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission
Greg Waugh, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Braxton Davis, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
Michelle Duval, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

F/SER25-RD

SER16-035

Mr. Sammy Corbett, Commissioner
North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 769
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557-0769

JUN 15 2016

Dear Mr. Corbett:

Thank you for your letter concerning the recent actions implemented by the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission for cobia in state waters. I recognize that cobia is an important recreational species for North Carolina, and I appreciate the State's efforts to reduce harvest of the species. These measures should assist in constraining recreational landings in state waters off North Carolina.

As you are aware, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will discuss new management measures for cobia in federal waters at its meeting this week in Cocoa Beach, Florida. The goal of the new measures the Council is considering is to extend future recreational fishing seasons for Atlantic cobia and to provide fair access to the resource for fishermen in all states. Possible management measures for the recreational sector may include vessel limits, increased minimum size limits, decreased bag limits, changes to the fishing year start date, and modified recreational accountability measures.

The Chair of the Council, Dr. Michelle Duval, sent a letter to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) on March 18, 2016, requesting the Commission consider either joint or complementary management of cobia with the Council. At its May 2016 meeting, the Commission indicated that it was committed to exploring options for the development of an interstate fishery management plan (FMP) for cobia. The Policy Board directed the South Atlantic Board to develop alternatives for developing an FMP that is either joint, complementary, or exclusively managed by the Commission to determine what type of FMP is the best way to move forward. The Commission will explore this issue further at its October 2016 meeting.

We will continue to support the Council and Commission in exploring options for managing cobia in the best interest of North Carolina and other Atlantic Coast states. Should you have additional questions, please contact me at (727) 824-5301.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator





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

COMMISSIONERS

PAT MCCRORY
Governor

DONALD VAN DER VAART
Secretary

SAMMY CORBETT
Chairman

MARK GORGES
Wrightsville Beach
CHUCK LAUGHRIDGE
Harkers Island
JANET ROSE
Moyock
JOE SHUTE
Morehead City

RICK SMITH
Greenville
MIKE WICKER
Raleigh
ALISON WILLIS
Harkers Island

June 8, 2016

Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dover, DE, 19901

Re: Comments on the Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment

Dear Dr. Moore:

I am writing on behalf of the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission to provide the following comments on provisions of the Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment being considered by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

- Our commission supports including little tunny (false albacore) and Atlantic bonito in the list of eco-system component species for inclusion in the amendment. Although the council did not approve Atlantic bonito for inclusion in the amendment, we believe effective management is needed for this unregulated species.
- Additionally, the commission supports Alternative 2B, which designates unmanaged forage species as eco-system component species and implements an incidental possession limit for commercial fisheries with a 1,700-pound total cap per trip and a 1,500-pound cap per trip on individual species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to working with you on this and other issues of mutual concern related to our fisheries resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sammy Corbett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sammy Corbett, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

cc: North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission
Braxton Davis, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
Chris Batsavage, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries



TELEPHONE
252-358-7805

Hertford County

115 Justice Drive • Suite 1
Winton, NC 27986

June 20, 2016

The Honorable Pat McCrory
NC Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

RE: Restoring Legal Herring Fishing by Individuals

Dear Governor McCrory:

During the regular meeting of the Hertford County Board of Commissioners held on May 16, 2016, our Board was addressed by concerned citizens requesting the reestablishment of being allowed to fish for herring in our local waters. They explained there had been an eight-year ban on catching herring when it was only supposed to have been a four-to-five year project. They further shared that the herring population is greater now than it has been in 15-to-20 years.

We are writing this letter in support of the efforts of the Albemarle Fishermen's Association and the North Carolina Fisheries Association to pass Senate Bill 871 sponsored by Senators Cook, Sanderson, Tillman, and McInnis. Section 7 of this bill specifically states that "The Division of Marine Fisheries shall review its Fishery Management Plan for river herring and report no later than December 15, 2016, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources regarding the continuing validity and scientific basis for the continued status of both species as 'overfished'."

According to the accounts that we have heard, herring is in abundance. We feel that herring should be available to the people of our wonderful state for personal use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Ronald J. Gatling, Chairman
Hertford County Board of Commissioners

pc: Senator Erica Smith-Ingram
Representative Howard J. Hunter, III
Secretary of NCDENR
✓ Chairman of Marine Fisheries

Northampton County

"A GREAT PLACE TO RAISE FAMILIES, PROFITS AND EXPECTATIONS"

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P. O. BOX 808

JACKSON, N. C. 27845

PHONE (252) 534-2501 • FAX (252) 534-1166

June 6, 2016

Governor Pat McCrory
North Carolina Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Re: Restoring Legal Herring Fishing by Individuals and Commercial Fisherman

Dear Governor McCrory:

During our Regular Session meeting on May 16, 2016, our Board was made aware of an issue where citizens and/or commercial fisherman are not allowed to fish for herring in our local waters. Our concerned fisherman gave personal accounts where they've noticed that herring is currently plenteous in our region.

We are writing this letter in support of the efforts of the Albemarle Fishermen's Association and the North Carolina Fisheries Association to pass Senate Bill 871 sponsored by Senators Cook, Sanderson, Tillman and McInnis. Section 7 of this bill specifically states that "The Division of Marine Fisheries shall review its Fishery Management Plan for river herring and report no later than December 15, 2016, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources regarding the continuing validity and scientific bases for the continued status of both species as "overfished."

According to the accounts that we have heard, herring is in abundance and is at or above historical levels. We feel that herring should be available to the people of our wonderful state for personal and commercial use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Fannie P. Greene, Chair
Northampton County Board of Commissioners

Cc: Secretary of NCDENR
Chairman of Marine Fisheries
Halifax County Commissioners
Hertford County Commissioners
Bertie County Commissioners

REMINDER

MANDATORY EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

MANDATORY EDUCATION.

Public Servants and Ethics Liaisons. The State Government Ethics Act *requires* that every public servant and ethics liaison complete an ethics and lobbying education presentation/program approved by the State Ethics Commission *within 6 months* of the person's election, reelection, appointment, or employment **and** complete a refresher ethics presentation *at least every two years thereafter*.

The willful failure of a public servant serving on a board to comply with the education requirements may subject the person to removal from the board. The willful failure of a public servant who is a State employee to comply with the education requirement may be considered a violation of a written work order permitting disciplinary action. Therefore, if there are public servants in your agency or on your covered state board or commission who are past due for completing their ethics education requirements, **those individuals should attend a live presentation, distance video-streamed presentation or complete the online education as soon as possible.**

Legislators. The State Government Ethics Act *requires* that every legislator complete an ethics and lobbying education presentation/program approved by the State Ethics Commission and the Legislative Ethics Committee *within 2 months* of either the convening of the General Assembly to which the legislator is elected or the legislator's appointment, whichever is later, **and** complete a refresher ethics education presentation *at least every two years thereafter*.

The willful failure of a legislator to comply with these education requirements may subject the legislator to sanctions under the Legislative Ethics Act.

Legislative Employees. The State Government Ethics Act *requires* that every legislative employee complete an ethics and lobbying education presentation/program approved by the State Ethics Commission and the Legislative Ethics Committee *within 3 months* of the person's employment **and** complete a refresher ethics education presentation *at least every two years thereafter*.

The willful failure of a legislative employee to comply with these education requirements may subject the person to disciplinary action by their hiring authority.

Legislators and Legislative Employees may check the status of their ethics education by going to the General Assembly intra-net page. Legislators and legislative employees who are past due for completing their ethics education requirements should contact Denise Adams with the Research Division of the General Assembly at denise.adams@ncleg.net or 919-301-1991 to coordinate/schedule their ethics education training.

ETHICS AND LOBBYING EDUCATION TRAINING.

Public Servants and Ethics Liaisons may complete the required basic or refresher ethics and lobbying education training by either attending a live presentation, a distance video streamed presentation or completing the online education modules.

- **Live and Distance Video-Streamed Presentation Dates.** The State Ethics Commission has scheduled live ethics and lobbying education presentations and distance video-streamlined presentations for the remainder of 2014. Dates, locations, and registration information are on the Commission's website at:
www.ethicscommission.nc.gov/education/eduSchedule.aspx.
- **Online Education.** The State Ethics Commission also offers online ethics and lobbying education. The education modules and instructions are on the Commission's website at:
www.ethicscommission.nc.gov/education/eduOnline.aspx.

Legislators may complete the required basic or refresher ethics and lobbying education training by attending a live presentation at the beginning of the legislative session jointly provided by the Ethic Commission and the Research Division of the General Assembly.

Legislative Employees may complete the required basic or refresher ethics and lobbying education training by going online to the General Assembly intra-net page.

REGISTRATION AND QUESTIONS.

- **Public Servants and Ethics Liaisons** please contact Sue Lundberg at (919) 715-2071 or by e-mail at Education.Ethics@doa.nc.gov to register for ethics and lobbying education training or if you have ethics education questions.
- **Legislators and Legislative Employees** please contact the General Assembly ethics hotline at 919-301-1991 or email Denise Adams at denise.adams@ncleg.net if you have questions about the ethics and lobbying education training or have ethics education questions.

Thank you for giving this matter your immediate attention and for sharing this information with all members of your covered board, commission or committee, all staff and employees covered under the State Government Ethics Act, and all legislators and legislative employees.

2016 Meeting Planning Calendar

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MFC ASMFC SAFMC MAFMC State Holiday Sea Turtle AC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern Regional AC Northern Regional AC Finfish AC Habitat and Water Quality AC Shellfish/Crustacean AC |
|--|--|

2017 Meeting Planning Calendar

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MFC ASMFC SAFMC MAFMC State Holiday Sea Turtle AC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern Regional AC Northern Regional AC Finfish AC Habitat and Water Quality AC Shellfish/Crustacean AC |
|--|--|