



*Oyster and Hard Clam
Fishery Management Plan Amendments*
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Marine Fisheries

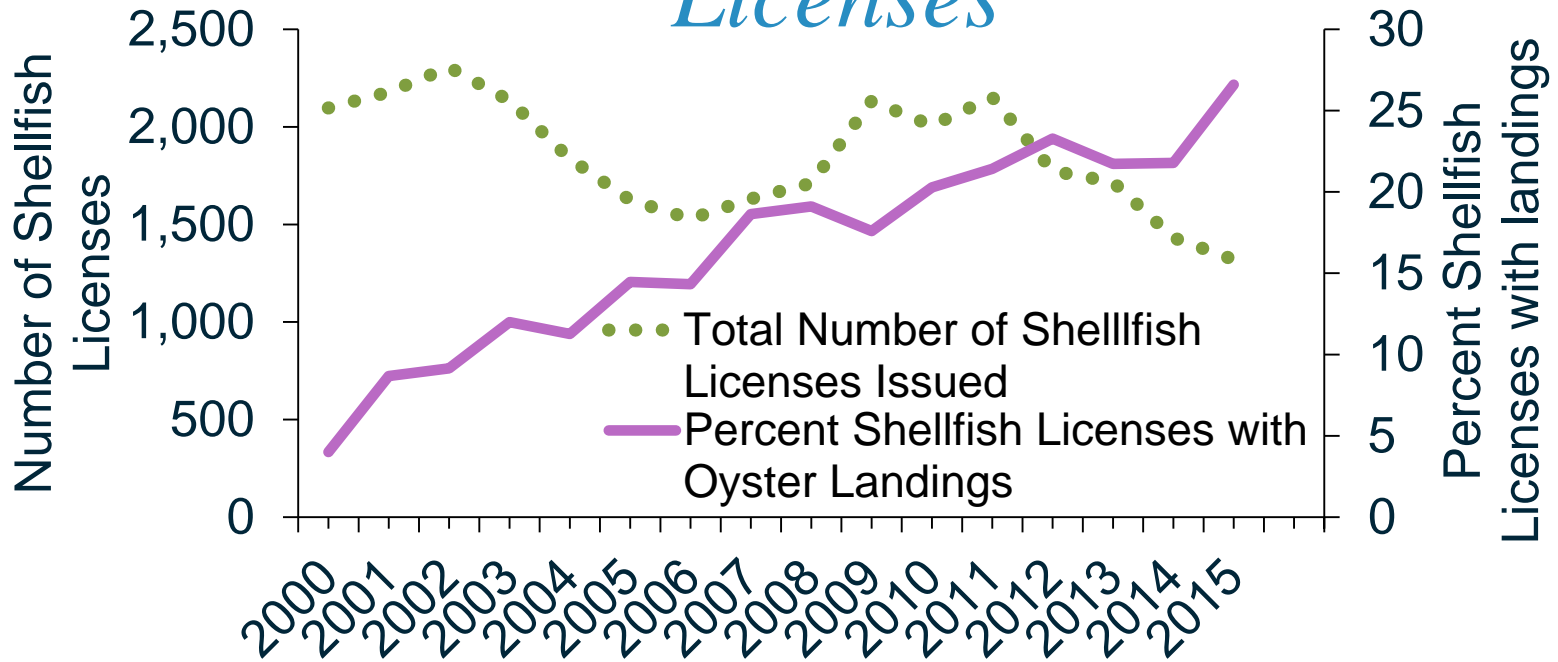
Marine Fisheries Commission | Tina Moore | May 19, 2016



Issue

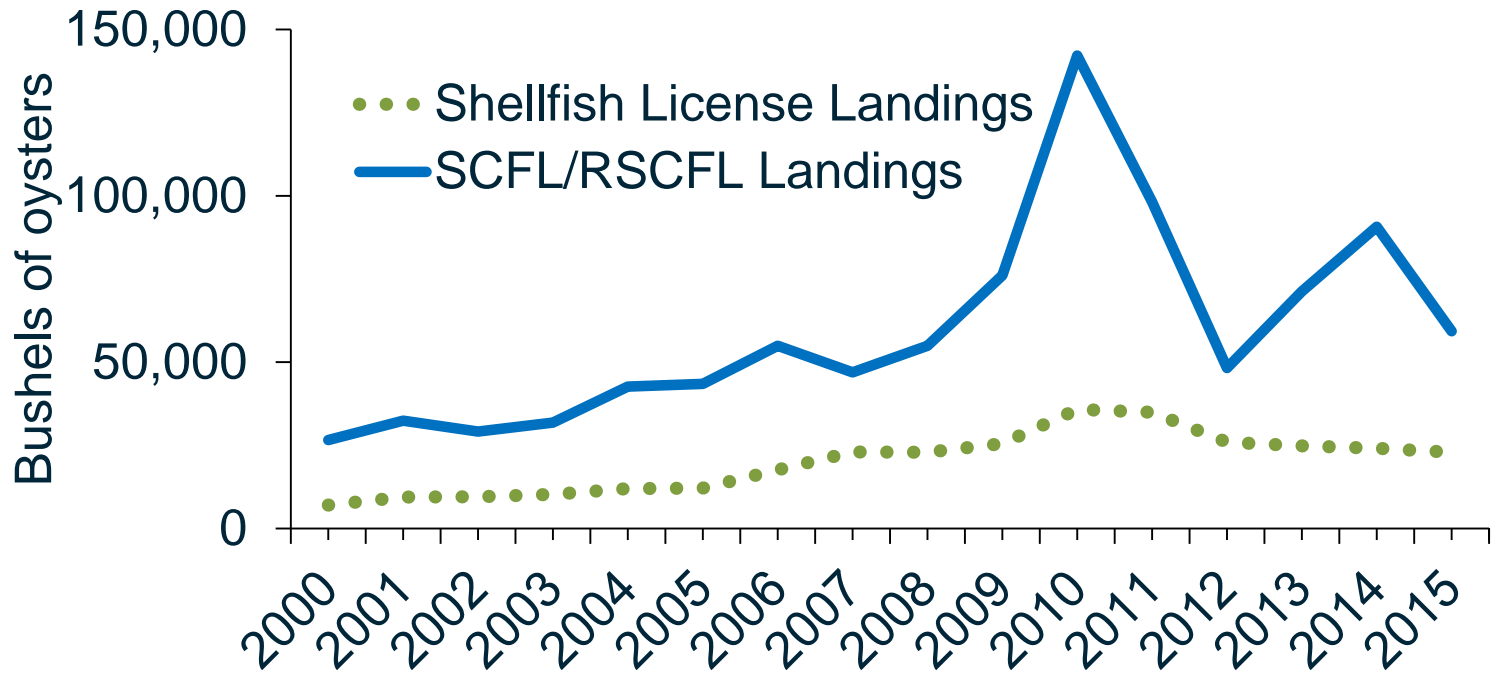
To determine the impacts to participants and obtain further public comment on the Marine Fisheries Commission's preferred management option of a two-bushel daily oyster limit from public bottom for Shellfish License holders statewide

Licenses



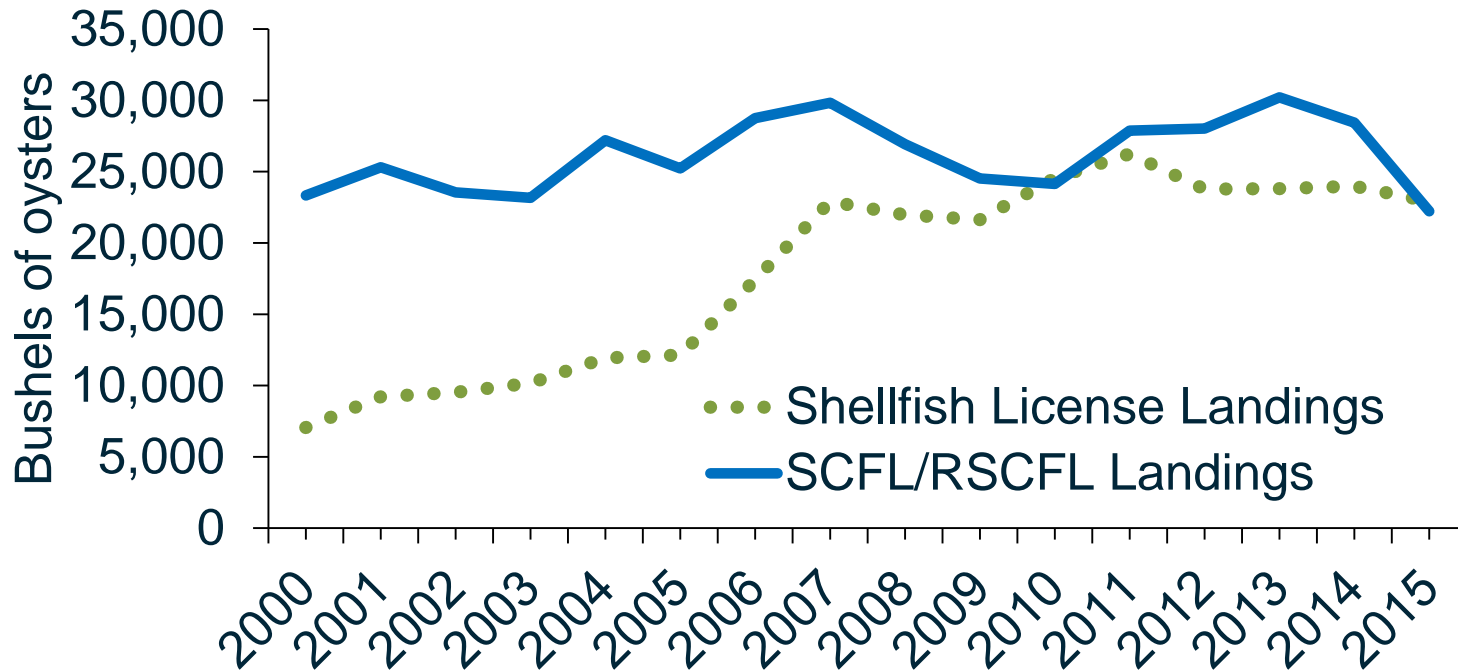
Average Number of Licenses Sold from 2000-2015 with Landings of Oysters	Southern	Central	Pamlico	Northern
Shellfish License	229	104	19	1
Standard or Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License	214	99	37	3

Total Mechanical and Hand Harvest Oyster Landings



Average Annual Oyster Landings (bushels) by License Type	Southern	Central	Pamlico	Northern
Shellfish License	13,152	4,207	2,249	11
Standard or Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License	19,471	5,511	34,205	335

Hand Harvest Oyster Landings



Average Annual Oyster Landings (bushels) by License Type	Southern	Central	Pamlico	Northern
Shellfish License	13,387	4,196	608	1
Standard or Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License	19,287	5,366	1,508	20

Management Options

1. Status quo (Continue to maintain the same daily oyster bushel limit for all commercial license types).
2. Reduce the Shellfish License oyster bushel limit to a lower specified amount statewide.
3. Reduce the Shellfish License oyster bushel limit to a specified amount regionally.

Southern Advisory Committee Recommendation

Support option three (Reduce the Shellfish License oyster bushel limit to a specified amount regionally) that reduces the southern region defined as south of the Highway 58 Bridge to two bushels per license (four bushels per vessel).

Northern Advisory Committee Recommendations

Advise the Marine Fisheries Commission to adopt a statewide possession limit of two bushels per person not to exceed four bushels per vessel for Shellfish License holders harvesting oysters from public bottom (Option two).

Oyster and Hard Clam Advisory Committee Recommendation

From Swan Point Marina south to the state line, maintain a daily trip limit of two bushels per person maximum four bushels of oysters per vessel off public bottom for holders of the Shellfish License. Maintain a daily trip limit at five bushels of oysters per person for Standard and Retired Commercial Fishing License holders in the southern region (Option three).

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Recommendation

Establish a daily limit of two bushels of oysters per person with a maximum of four bushels of oysters per vessel off public bottom with the Shellfish License statewide (Option two).

Overview of the Recommendations for the Shellfish License Daily Oyster Harvest Limit off Public Bottom

Southern Advisory Committee	Northern Advisory Committee	Oyster and Hard Clam Advisory Committee	North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
<p>Option Three – Regional</p> <p>Reduce to two bushels per person four bushels per operation south of the Highway 58 Bridge</p>	<p>Option Two – Statewide</p> <p>Reduce to two bushels per person four bushels per operation</p>	<p>Option Three – Regional</p> <p>Reduce to two bushels per person four bushels per operation south of Swan Point Marina</p>	<p>Option Two – Statewide</p> <p>Reduce to two bushels per person four bushels per operation</p>



Questions?