



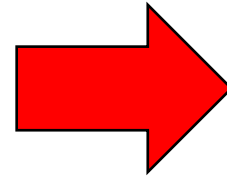
Fishery Management Plan Status Update

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Marine Fisheries

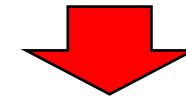
Marine Fisheries Commission | Jeff Dobbs & Dan Zapf | May 2026



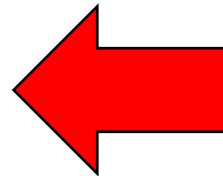
FMP
Development



MFC Adoption



Long-term
Implementation



Implementation

Presentation Outline

FMP Implementation

- Spotted Seatrout Amendment 1
- Eastern Oyster Amendment 5
- Hard Clam Amendment 3
- Striped Bass Amendment 2
- Southern Flounder Amendment 4

Stock Assessment

- Blue Crab

FMPs Under Review

- Southern Flounder
- Red Drum
- Kingfishes

Annual FMP Review



Striped Bass Amendment 2

Adaptive Management

- Tar-Pamlico and Neuse rivers management changes in 2026
- Made via Amendment 2 adaptive management framework
- Factors other than fishing mortality and inadequate spawning stock abundance preventing sustainability of the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse rivers striped bass stocks



Co-Leads

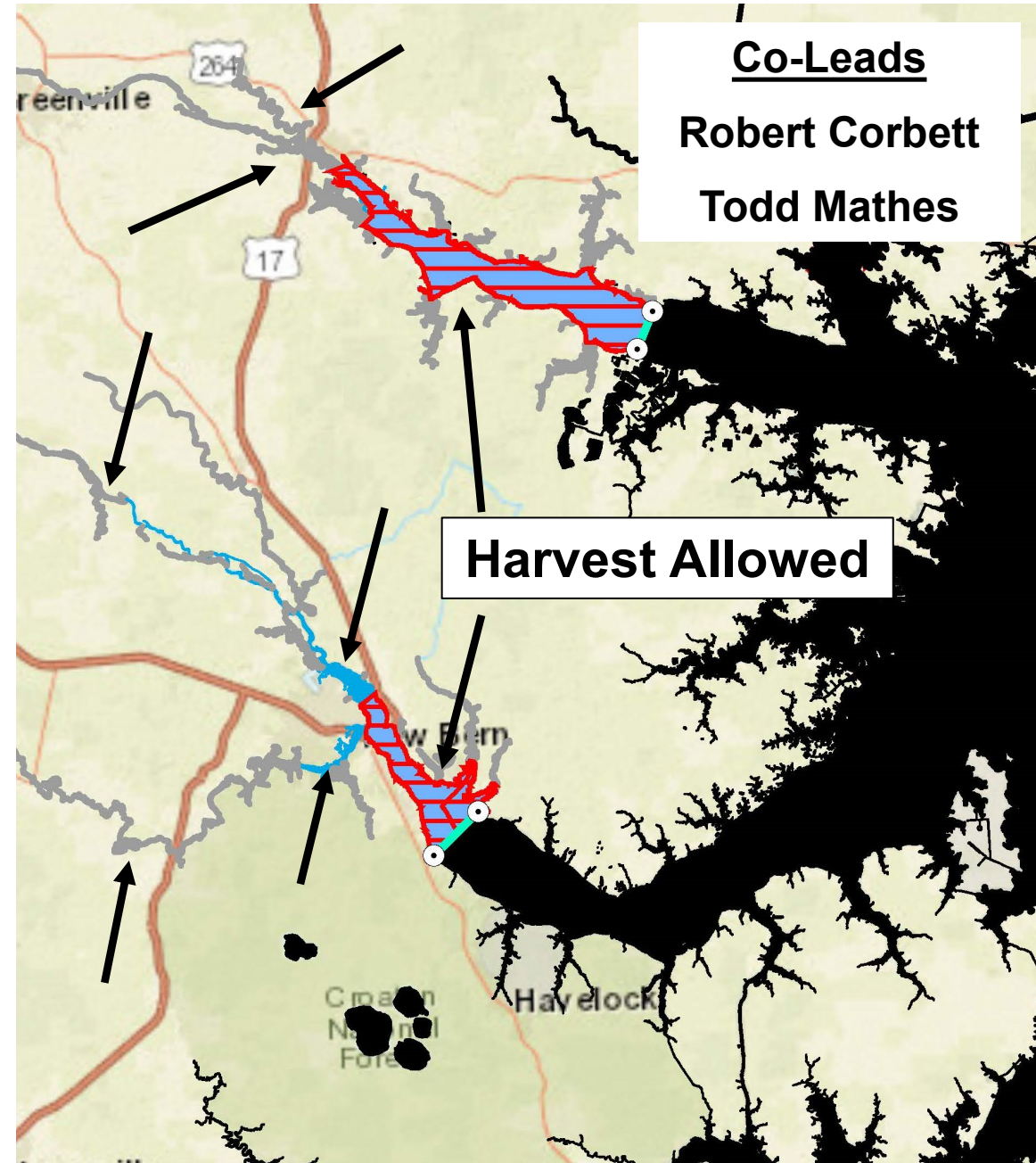
Robert Corbett

Todd Mathes



Striped Bass FMP Amendment 2

- Recreational and commercial harvest upstream of the large mesh gill net distance from shore lines
- Season from April 1–30
- One fish per person per day
- 18 – 22 inches or a fish greater than 27 inches total length
- Limited harvest of stocked striped bass



Striped Bass Amendment 2

Adaptive Management

- Creel estimates
 - 357 fish harvested (PSE 100; upper bound of 95% confidence interval=1,056 fish)
 - Maintained harvest below previous levels
- Mandatory harvest reporting
 - 42 reports
- Commercial tag requirement
 - 62 tags used
- Fin clips
 - 7 from recreational/commercial



Co-Leads

Robert Corbett

Todd Mathes



Southern Flounder FMP Amendment 4

- Gulf Flounder season March 9–22
- Limited to ocean waters south of Ocracoke Inlet
- Unseasonably cold
- Low effort and catch observed
- Division will evaluate timing next year (Amendment 4: March 1-April 15)
- Issue will be more comprehensively addressed in Amendment 5



Co-Leads

Anne Markwith

Charlton Godwin



N.C. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW SCHEDULE (July 2025 – June 2030)

SPECIES (Date of Last Action)	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER (8/25)					
RED DRUM (8/17)					
KINGFISHES (8/20)					
BLUE CRAB (2/20)					
BAY SCALLOP (8/20)					
SHRIMP (2/22)					
ESTUARINE STRIPED BASS (11/22)					
RIVER HERRING (8/22)					
INTERJURISDICTIONAL (5/22)					
STRIPED MULLET (5/24)					
SPOTTED SEATROUT (3/25)					
EASTERN OYSTER (5/25)					
HARD CLAM (5/25)					

Southern Flounder FMP Amendment 5

- DEQ Secretary approved broadening scope of Amendment 5
- Draft Amendment 5 being finalized for FMP AC
- Solicitation for FMP AC occurred in April
 - Received 98 applications
 - Chair will review list and appoint AC
- FMP AC workshop is being rescheduled
- Then Division will incorporate FMP AC input into second draft
- Then MFC vote to send draft for public and MFC AC comment



Co-Leads

Anne Markwith

Charlton Godwin



Red Drum FMP

- Scheduled review of Red Drum FMP began in 2025
 - Delayed to allow ASMFC to adopt their plan
- Division has identified an initial list of topics to bring out for scoping
- The scoping period is scheduled to occur in June
- The Division will hold 5 scoping meetings in June



Co-Leads

Cara Kowalchyk

Melinda Lambert



Kingfishes FMP

- Scheduled review of Kingfishes FMP began in 2025
- Evaluating fishery-independent, fishery-dependent, and biological data
- Results will inform potential management changes
- Results will be provided to MFC later in 2026
- Review will replace or remove FMP triggers
- Scoping in Fall 2026



Co-Leads

Matthew Doster

Claire Pelletier



Annual FMP Review

- Annual reviews for each State, Federal, and ASMFC managed species N.C. has direct involvement
 - 12 state-managed species or species groups
 - 21 ASMFC or Federal Council species or species groups
 - 1 species managed by rule
- For each species or species group:
 - Recreational, commercial, fishery-dependent, and fishery-independent data
 - Management, life history, and stock assessment information
 - Data and fishery trends
- Assess management based on current information
- Recommend changes to FMP review schedule
- Have been used as 5-year review when no management changes are needed
- Presented to MFC in August 2026



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Questions?

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Species Leads

