

Issue Paper Preview for November 2025 N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting

Issue Paper Title	Issue	Origination	Proposed Rules	Division of Marine Fisheries Recommendation
ATLANTIC BONITO MANAGEMENT	Develop a rule to implement regulations on Atlantic bonito. The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission passed a motion on May 23, 2024, “to request the DMF develop an issue paper for Atlantic bonito management, including landings information and proposed rule language, using the previous sheepshead issue paper as a model to follow.” Additionally, the Commission passed a motion on August 21, 2025, “to ask the DMF to bring proposed rulemaking language for a five-fish recreational bag limit per person for Atlantic bonito to the MFC at its November 2025 business meeting.”	N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission	• 15A NCAC 03M .0524	To be determined (February 2026)

NOVEMBER 2025 N.C. MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING
DRAFT PROPOSED RULE PREVIEW ONLY
NOT AN ACTION ITEM

PROPOSED RULE PREVIEW A

15A NCAC 03M .0524 is proposed for adoption as follows:

15A NCAC 03M .0524 ATLANTIC BONITO

The Fisheries Director may, with prior consent of the Marine Fisheries Commission, by proclamation and pursuant to 15A NCAC 03H .0103, impose any of the following requirements on the taking of Atlantic bonito:

(1) _____ specify time;

(2) _____ specify area;

(3) _____ specify means and methods;

(4) _____ specify season;

(5) _____ specify size; and

(6) _____ specify quantity.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;
Eff. April 1, 2027.*

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PROPOSED RULE PREVIEW B

15A NCAC 03M .0524 is proposed for adoption as follows:

15A NCAC 03M .0524 ATLANTIC BONITO

The Fisheries Director may, with prior consent of the Marine Fisheries Commission, by proclamation and pursuant to 15A NCAC 03H .0103, impose any of the following requirements on the taking of Atlantic bonito:

(1) _____ specify time;

(2) _____ specify area;

(3) _____ specify means and methods;

(4) _____ specify season;

(5) _____ specify size; and

(6) _____ specify quantity, not to exceed five fish per person per day for recreational purposes.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;
Eff. April 1, 2027.*

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PROPOSED RULE PREVIEW C

15A NCAC 03M .0524 is proposed for adoption as follows:

15A NCAC 03M .0524 ATLANTIC BONITO

(a) It shall be unlawful to possess more than five Atlantic bonito per person per day for recreational purposes.

(b) The Fisheries Director may, with prior consent of the Marine Fisheries Commission, by proclamation and pursuant to 15A NCAC 03H .0103, impose any of the following requirements on the taking of Atlantic bonito:

(1) specify time;

(2) specify area;

(3) specify means and methods;

(4) specify season;

(5) specify size; and

(6) specify quantity, except as provided in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;

Eff. (Pending legislative review pursuant to S.L. 2019-198).