



# *Standard Commercial Fishing License (SCFL) Eligibility Pool Determination*

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Marine Fisheries

Marine Fisheries Commission | Captain Garland Yopp, Chearin Lewis | August 2025



# *SCFL Eligibility Pool*

- Session Law 1998-225
  - SCFL Eligibility Board established
  - Requirement for MFC rules
- 15A NCAC 03O .0400
  - Eligibility Board operation
  - Eligibility Pool cap
  - Eligibility Pool application process
  - Eligibility criteria



# SCFLs Available in 2025–2026 License Year

<b>Determination of Available SCFLs for 2025-2026 License Year</b>	
Total original SCFLs available (Cap)	<b>8,896</b>
SCFLs issued and renewed in 2024–2025	<b>– 5,198</b>
2024–2025 approved SCFLs not yet issued*	<b><u>– 5</u></b>
<b>SCFLs available for 2025–2026 license year</b>	<b>3,693</b>

\*Individuals approved in the spring (April 2025) have until June 30 of the following license year (2026) to purchase their SCFL

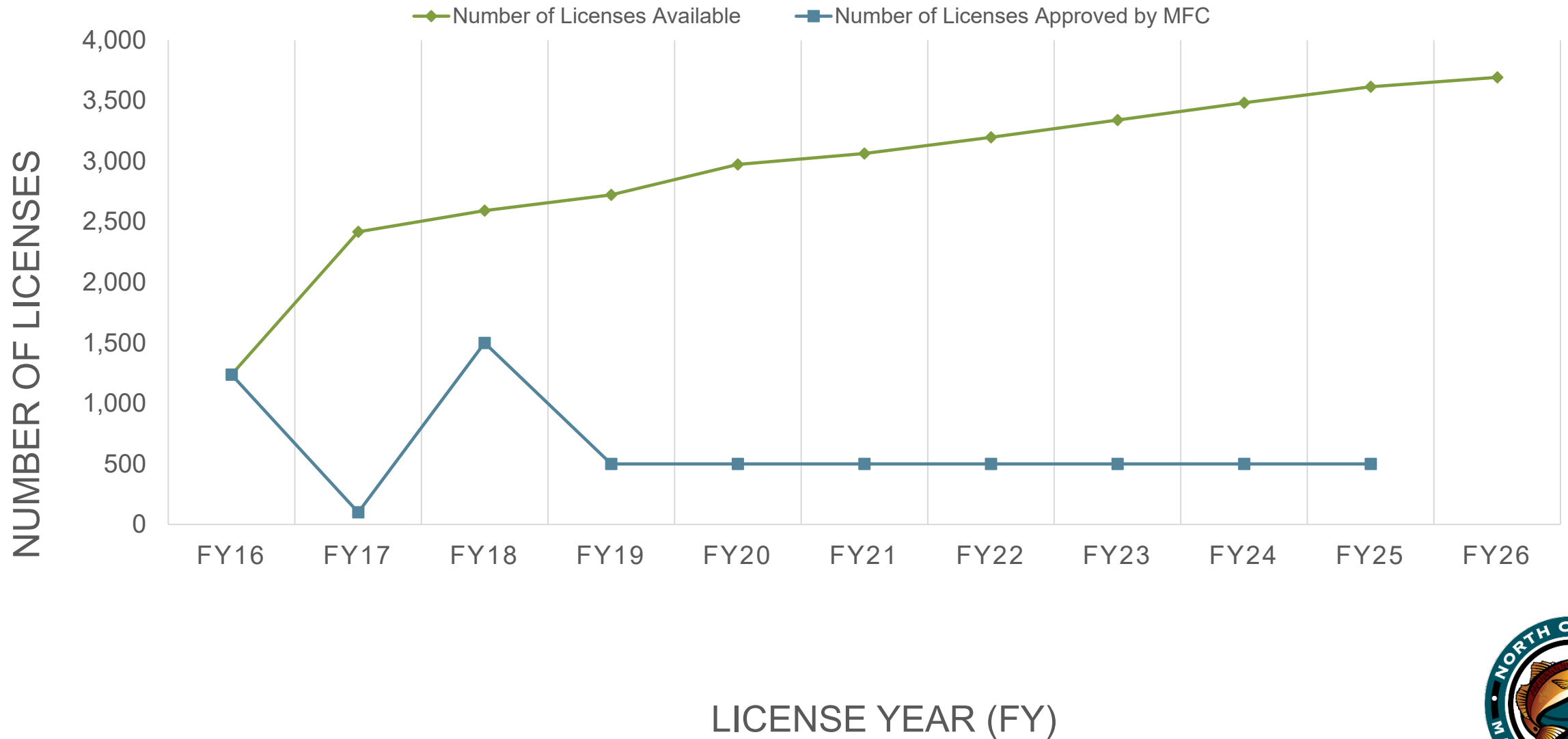


# *Considerations from 2024-2025 License Year*

- 40 SCFL applications received
  - 39 approved
  - 1 denials
- 8% increase in total applications from previous year



# Eligibility Pool Data for Last 10 Years



# SCFL Eligibility Pool

## Action Item

Marine Fisheries Commission vote to set the number of SCFLs in the Eligibility Pool for the 2025-2026 License Year from the 3,693 available licenses



# Questions?

## **Chairman Eligibility Board**

Captain Garland Yopp

910-796-7220

[Garland.Yopp@deq.nc.gov](mailto:Garland.Yopp@deq.nc.gov)

## **License and Statistics Program Manager**

Chearin Lewis

252-515-5543

[Chearin.Lewis@deq.nc.gov](mailto:Chearin.Lewis@deq.nc.gov)

