



To: NC Marine Fisheries Commission

May. 13, 2016

From: Coastal Conservation Association of NC

Re: Public Comment on Central Region Management Area (CSMA) Striped Bass for May 2016 MFC Meeting

Mr. Chairperson and Commissioners,

CCA NC has prepared and attached a "White Paper" that is attached. The web address of an appendix containing the full text bibliography and other supporting materials is:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B0qlokkxkPyHNI01RHJqdFZKUUU>

In this white paper, CCA NC has made several recommendations including an immediate proclamation to stop overfishing on these imperiled stocks. CCA NC asks the MFC to direct the Director to use his statutory power to intervene.

CSMA striped bass are just 2 of the 16 finfish stocks managed by North Carolina. CCA has examined these 16 species from the NC DMF website and only 4 species stock status are listed as viable. This should be an embarrassment to the Commission, Division and DEQ (DENR) leadership. For so many of these fish stocks, data documenting their status has been around for for many FMPs, including Central Region striped bass, Southern flounder, red drum, spot, and croaker. The state of NC finfish species did not occur overnight and will not be recovered soon. Get busy.

Again, CCA NC appreciates the Commission offering our organization the opportunity to comment on coastal fishery resource issues, and the work that the Commission does to conserve and protect those resources. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chris Elkins PhD
President, Coastal Conservation Association of North Carolina

CCA North Carolina
Board of Directors

Bud Abbott
Chairman
Dr. Chris Elkins
President

Bob Lorenz
Vice President

Keith Johnson
Vice President

Rocky Carter
Vice President

Donald Willis Jr.
Vice President

Billy Byrd
Treasurer

Jeff Akin
Andrew Boyd
Dick Brame
Mel Broughton
Bill Brown
Phil Burris
Avery Corning, IV
Jay Dail
Phil Dauksys
Dr. Callie Freeman
Dick Hamilton
Jim Hardin
Drew Honeycutt
Greg Hurt
Hodge Jordan III
Mike Kalet
John Knight
Bill Mandulak
Dave Martin
Mike Mayse
John Moon
Sammy Moser
Edwin Newell
Bo Nowell
Dr. James Oldham
Bert Owens
Eb Pesci
Will Rabon
Bobby Rice
Capt. Tom Roller
Shelley Smith
Jack Sprull
Capt. Lee Sykes
Rollie Tillman III
Capt. Seth Vernon
Joel Waddell
Buzz Wilkinson
Rex Willis III
Rip Woodin

David Sneed
Executive Director

Todd Shamek
Assistant Director

Cindy Davis
Office Administrator

Dr. Tim Nijong, Ph.D., J.D.
General Counsel