



# Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) adopted Amendment 2 of the Southern Flounder FMP, with some flexibility provided to the Director to determine seasonal openings. The stock assessment determined the Southern Flounder stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring. State law requires management actions be taken to end overfishing within 2 years and recover the stock from an overfished condition within 10 years. To meet these legal requirements the Division determined that significant reductions in harvest were necessary. The resulting management measures were approved by the MFC on August 23rd and are described here. For full details please refer to the Division's website (<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/home>).

## Year 2019 62% Reduction in Total Removals



- No Flounder harvest outside of open season
- All gears targeting Southern Flounder removed from water outside of season
- Catfish and Shad fisheries WILL operate

### Recreational



**2019 Season Completed,  
Closed by  
Proclamation FF-32-2019**

### Commercial



**2019 Season will Open  
and Close According to  
Proclamation FF-34-2019**

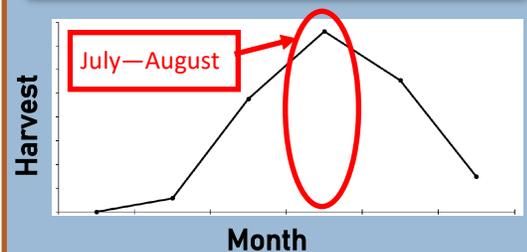
#### 2019 Commercial Seasons

- Northern—Sept. 15 to Oct. 13
- Central—Oct. 1 to Oct. 26
- Southern—Oct. 1 to Nov. 15

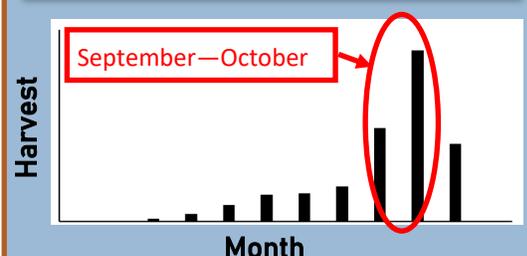
## Why the difference?

The reason for the separate recreational and commercial seasons was to balance the reduction requirements with stakeholder use. Since the recreational and commercial harvests peak at different times, creating seasons based on peak harvest was determined to be the best option to reach the sustainability goals while maximizing stakeholder access.

### Recreational Harvest



### Commercial Harvest



# Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2

## Year 2020

### 72% Reduction in Total Removals



- No Flounder harvest outside of open season
- All gears targeting Southern Flounder removed from water outside of season
- Catfish and Shad fisheries WILL operate

### Recreational



**Season To Be Opened by  
Proclamation**

**2020 Recreational Harvest Seasons:**

- Dates To Be Determined

### Commercial



**Season To Be Opened by  
Proclamation**

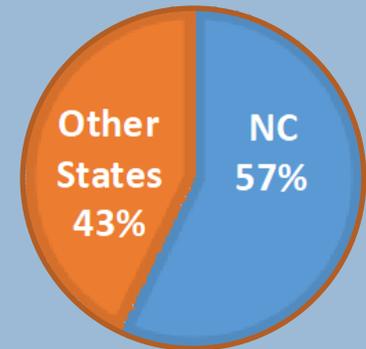
**2020 Commercial Harvest Seasons:**

- Dates to be determined.

## Why North Carolina?

A common question heard from the public is, "Why do we have to take action when the other states aren't?"

**U.S. SOUTH ATLANTIC COAST AVERAGE  
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER REMOVALS  
2008 - 2017**



North Carolina's commercial and recreational southern flounder removals are higher than all other states combined. Therefore, it's likely that any management strategy implemented by North Carolina will have a positive impact on the sustainability of the southern flounder fishery, regardless of any action, or inaction, by other states.

## Another Flounder Amendment?!

Yes, Amendment 2 moved quickly through the process of development and adoption to address the overfished and overfishing status of the Southern Flounder stock. The season closures resulting from Amendment 2 were deemed critical to the successful rebuilding of the southern flounder stock, while other, more robust, management strategies are examined in Amendment 3. The adoption of Amendment 2 immediately begins the development of Amendment 3 to examine other management strategies.

### Management Strategies Examined in Amendment 3:

- ⇒ Quota
- ⇒ Slot Limits
- ⇒ Size Limit Changes
- ⇒ Gear Changes
- ⇒ Species Specific Management

