

## NOTICE OF TEXT ATTACHMENT

### #8 - Explain Reason for Proposed Action

#### **15A NCAC 03I .0114 RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS**

In accordance with a request from the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission, proposed amendments modify trip ticket reporting requirements to require all fish dealers that report an annual average of greater than 50,000 pounds of finfish for the previous three calendar years to report via electronic data file submission to the Division. Electronic reporting files are processed more quickly than paper files and the faster access to data reported in electronic files allows fisheries managers to make more timely decisions and also more efficiently monitor fisheries landings for species managed under a quota or a cap.

#### **15A NCAC 03J .0209 ALBEMARLE SOUND/CHOWAN RIVER HERRING MANAGEMENT AREAS**

#### **15A NCAC 03R .0112 ATTENDED GILL NET AREAS**

#### **15A NCAC 03R .0201 STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT AREAS**

In accordance with the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan, proposed amendments re-establish a coordinate point on land that has eroded for Roanoke Marshes Point, the western point of the southern boundary of the Albemarle Sound Management Area. The orientation of the boundary line remains unchanged. Establishing a new point is necessary to complete the management area line and facilitate fishing operations and enforcement.

#### **15A NCAC 03L .0105 RECREATIONAL SHRIMP LIMITS**

Proposed amendments replace the 100-count measurement of shrimp harvested with a cast net in closed areas to a two-quart measurement, to improve Marine Patrol Officers' safety when enforcing shrimp harvest limits.

#### **15A NCAC 03M .0201 GENERAL**

In accordance with the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan, proposed amendments allow the potential use of hook-and-line gear for the commercial harvest and sale of striped bass in estuarine areas under the jurisdiction of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission, providing a potential alternative to gill net fishing. But, to be fully effective, these rule changes must be accompanied by a proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director providing for the use of hook-and-line gear as an acceptable means or method for the commercial harvest of striped bass during the open season. To ensure protection of the stock and to prevent abuse of additional commercial opportunities, such a proclamation would only be issued following thorough discussions by the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission and its advisory committees on the unique characteristics of the Albemarle Sound Management Area and the Central Southern Management Area striped bass fisheries. Also, the proposed amendments do not automatically allow the commercial use of this gear everywhere. It remains unlawful to sell hook-and-line caught fish from joint waters of the Roanoke River Management Area, which is under the jurisdiction of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. It also remains unlawful to sell Atlantic Ocean striped bass caught with the use of hook-and-line gear. Any changes to the commercial harvest and sale of Atlantic Ocean striped bass would be considered in the context of the next N.C. Interjurisdictional Fishery Management Plan review. Changes made to that plan would also be required to be implemented under the Fisheries Director's proclamation authority.

#### **15A NCAC 03M .0202 SEASON, SIZE AND HARVEST LIMIT: INTERNAL COASTAL WATERS**

In accordance with the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan, proposed amendments clarify that it remains unlawful to sell hook-and-line caught fish from joint waters of the Roanoke River Management Area, which is under the jurisdiction of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Proposed amendments to Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0201 allow the potential use of hook-and-line gear for the commercial harvest and sale of striped bass in estuarine areas under the jurisdiction of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission.

#### **15A NCAC 03Q .0202 DESCRIPTIVE BOUNDARIES FOR COASTAL-JOINT-INLAND WATERS**

In accordance with the N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan, proposed amendments shift the existing Joint/Coastal boundary line between the Albemarle Sound Management Area and the Roanoke River Management Area for easier public identification and adherence to striped bass regulations.