NC Roe Mullet Stop Net Fishery

Fishing gear type: Stop Net

Current category: Category II[*]

Basis for current classification on the LOF: The 2010 LOF included a superscript "1" following bottlenose dolphin (WNA coastal stock) because the annual mortality and serious injury of that stock in this fishery was greater than 1% and less than 50% of the stock's Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level. When the stocks of bottlenose dolphins killed/injured in this fishery were updated on the 2011 LOF, the superscript "1" was retained after the new stocks because NMFS cannot yet differentiate to which stock a killed/injured animal belongs. In this case, there is only one stock the killed/injured animals could have come from.

Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed (a [(1)] indicates those stocks driving the fishery's classification): Bottlenose dolphin, Southern North Carolina (NC) estuarine system [(1)].

Estimated number of current participants: 13

Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery: Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan (BDTRP), 50 CFR 229.35.

Year added to the LOF: 1996

Category when originally listed: Category II

Basis for original classification on the LOF: This fishery was categorized as a Category II based on stranding information and visual observations. Estimated mortality and serious injury of bottlenose dolphins was 3 animals/year (based on entanglement of stranded animals and evidence of mortality due to stop nets), which was 12% of PBR (PBR=25).

Estimated number of participants when originally listed: 13

Past names, if any: None.

Gear description/method for fishing: This fishery uses a stop net and a beach seine. The stop net is a stationary, multi-filament net set in an "L" shape that is anchored to the beach and extended out perpendicular to the beach. The stop net herds schools of fish, while the beach haul seine is used to capture fish and bring them ashore. The beach seine is constructed of multi-filament and monofilament panels with stretched mesh ranging from 3-4 inches stretched. The stop net is traditionally left in the water for 1-5 days, but can be left as long as 15 days.

Target species: Striped mullet.

Spatial/temporal distribution of effort: Effort occurs from October-November and is unique to Bogue Banks, North Carolina.

Levels of observer coverage each year[†]: There has not been Federal observer coverage in this fishery; however, the NMFS Beaufort laboratory observed this fishery in 2001-2002.

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[*] The fishery is classified based on mortalities and serious injuries of a marine mammal stock greater than 1% and less than 50% (Category II) of the stock's Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level.
[†] Observer coverage levels include the latest information reported in the most current final Stock Assessment Report (SAR).

Management and regulations: This fishery is managed under the North Carolina Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan, North Carolina Department of Marine Fisheries, and is an affected fishery under the BDTRP.

History of Changes on the LOF

2011 LOF: Updated the stock name for bottlenose dolphins killed/injured in this fishery, based on the revised stock structure presented in the final 2008 and 2009 SARs. Replaced bottlenose dolphin (WNA coastal) with the following stock: bottlenose dolphin (Southern NC estuarine system). Retained a superscript "1" after this stock because the 2010 LOF includes a superscript "1" following bottlenose dolphin (WNA coastal).

2006 LOF: Added a superscript "1" in Table 2 after bottlenose dolphin (WNA), indicating that this stock is driving the categorization of this fishery.