



Michels, Stewart (DNREC)

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Subject: Public Hearing Comments

Comments on Docket #2019-R-F-0026

Name: Dr Harvey Yenkinson
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Organization:

Comments:

Michels, Stewart (DNREC)

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I strongly oppose the expansion of the gill net area. With the Delaware Bay stock in an overfished status with overfishing occurring, the expansion of any gill netting areas would further lead to depletion of the stock. Of particular concern is that the gill netting occurs when the spawning females are ascending the bay to complete the spawning process. I would further add, that the gill netting season only be allowed after the species has spawned. With almost 100% of the fish being harvested in the spring prespawn, this practice goes against all logic and all chances of allowing any species to thrive. Expanding the spawning area with the current stock trajectory would be seriously detrimental to recovery of the striped bass stock. It is only logical that difficulties in achieving the Delaware striper commercial quota,, are because of the depleted status of the stock, not because the gill net area needs to be expanded. Please consider closing the gill netting until after the fish have spawned. The same should apply to both the recreational and commercial sectors. Thank you Dr Harvey Yenkinson AP member MAFMC