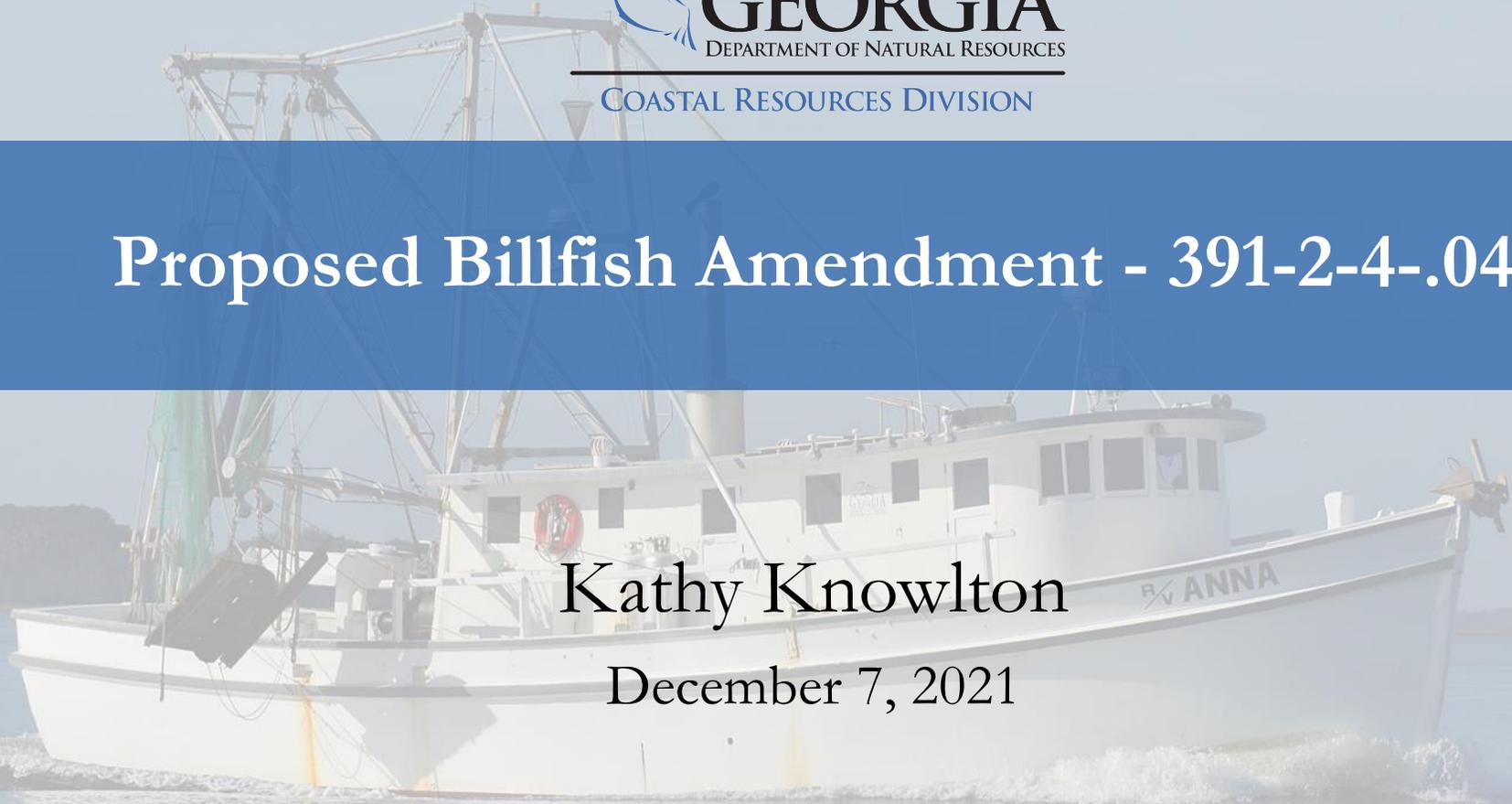




Proposed Billfish Amendment - 391-2-4-.04

Kathy Knowlton

December 7, 2021



Atlantic Billfish: Blue Marlin, White Marlin & Sailfish

1980s: Overfished throughout coastal range

1988: no commercial harvest

2001: Georgia prohibited harvest

2006: highly restrictive federal regulations

- 250 fish combined annual landings for Blue & White Marlin across Atlantic & Gulf Coasts
- Permitting, reporting and gear requirements
- Minimum sizes (Blue:99", White:66", Sails 63")
- Applies to all vessels UNLESS state regulations are more restrictive



2020 Federal Billfish Permits

State	# Charter/Headboat	# Angling
NC	349	1,436
SC	122	518
GA	27	96
FL	754	4,453

Proposed Amendments 391-2-4-.04

Saltwater Finfishing

(2) **Definitions**

(a) “Billfish” means Blue Marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), White Marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*) and Sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*).

Houskeeping: resort and renumber all remaining defined terms.

(3) **Seasons, Daily Creel and Possession Limits, Minimum and Maximum Size Limits**

Strike “No Open Season has been established by the Board of Natural Resources” and reserve (3)(f), (3)(p) and (3)(aa).

(5) **Possession and Landing Specifications**

(e) Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, in state waters the size, catch, creel and possession limits, fishing period closures, and requirements pertaining to the taking, release, landing, sale, purchase, trade, or barter of billfish shall be prescribed by federal regulations implemented under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (PL 94-265) and the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan.

These amendments, as proposed, would allow for landing billfish in Georgia so long as all applicable federal regulations regarding their harvest are adhered to.

Minimal Public Participation

December 7, 2021 Proposed amendments to Rule 391-2-4-.04 presented to Board

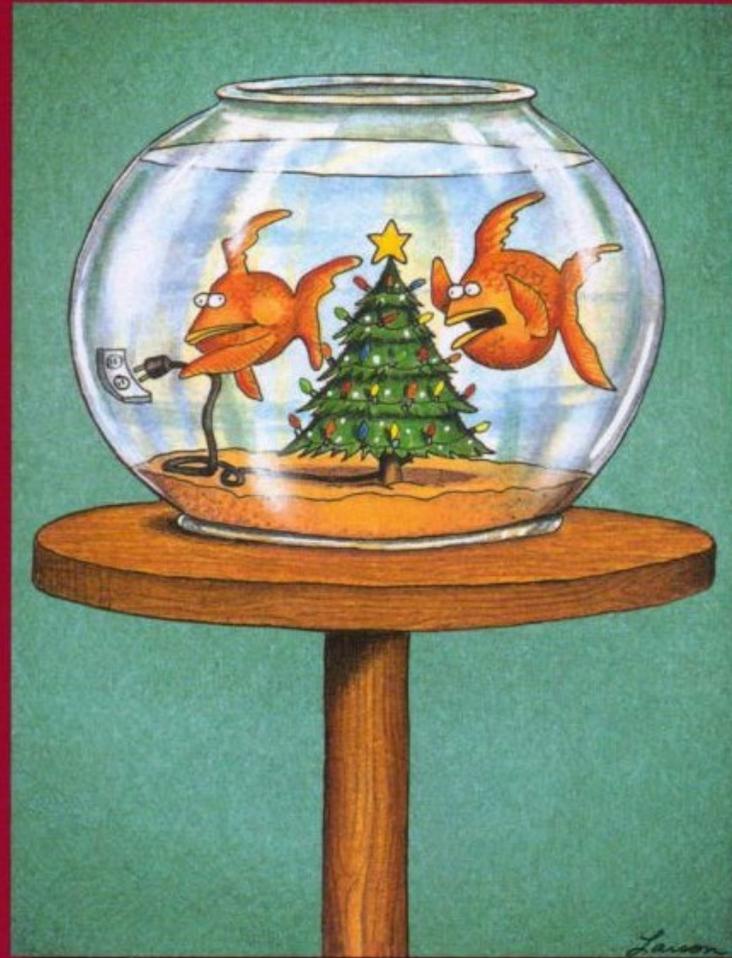
December 8, 2021 Public Notice of written comment period

January 11, 2022 Written Comment Closes

January 28, 2022 Board Action

March 1, 2022 Implementation

Questions?



"Bob! You fool. ... Don't plug that thing in!"



Coastal Marshlands Protection and Shore Protection Committees Membership

Doug Haymans

December 7, 2021

