

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Andrew Derr <andrew@flylifemagazine.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 3:37 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Please, keep the false albacore listed as forage.

I am writing today to show my support for keeping the bonito and false albacore listed as a forage fish. Thank you,

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**Captain Andrew Derr | Editor**

Fly Life Magazine.com

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## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** bountyhunterfishing@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 9:14 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore and Bonito

Ms. Beaty,

As a concerned citizen and light tackle and fly fishing guide in the great state of NC, I urge you to please stand against the removal of False Albacore, Atlantic bonito and frigate and bullet mackerel from the list of species on the Unmanaged Forage Amendment. Specifically Atlantic Bonito and false albacore which are two fish that are worth millions upon millions of dollars to the recreational fishing industry alive and swimming in NC waters rather than harvested commercially and sold for pennies on the dollar. We in NC face many difficult fisheries battles and if Atlantic Bonito and False Albacore were added to the list of declining fisheries in NC, the recreational fishing industry and the business of many fishing guides like me would be devastated.

I believe the removal of these species from the list would be a grave mistake resulting from an underestimation of the importance of these fish in a recreational standpoint to the coastal communities up and down the Atlantic coast, not just here in NC. Any small benefit of leaving these fish unprotected will be largely overshadowed by the damage caused to the populations of fish and thus, the recreational fishing industry and people that depend on it. These fish need to be protected because of the potential for abuse of the resource given recent developments in world markets.

ask our members to vote to keep them on the full list for the council to consider. That they are too important to be unmanaged and that this is an inexpensive way to protect the viability and abundance of these species and begin a conversation about their management.

Sent from my iPhone

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Sarah Cole <a.s.cole@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 8:36 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** commercial harvest

Ms. Beaty

It has recently come to my attention that various species including false albacore, Atlantic bonito, frigate and bullet mackerel could be dramatically exposed to large scale commercial harvest. I strongly urge your committee members to better understand the economic impact these species provide to many economies on the east coast. These species provide perhaps the best catch and release fly fishing and light tackle fishery. Thousands of anglers travel to destinations and spend money on hotels, restaurants, fishing guides, tackle shops, tourist attractions, etc while in pursuit of these fish. I have traveled to Montauk, where your meeting will be held next week, at least 10-12 times in the past 6 years, solely for the opportunity to catch false albacore on the fly rod. I have traveled with my family, stayed in the local hotels, gone out to eat at the local restaurants, while my wife and daughters have shopped in the local stores. If the fish are no longer there, anglers and their families will no longer make those trips.

If you allow these species to be exposed to large scale commercial harvest, there will be severe economic impact to many towns from the Northeast all down the coast to Florida.

Sincerely

Anthony Cole

Sent from my iPad

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** arnold savolainen <asavolaine@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 11:03 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Re: Help Protect False Albacore & Bonito

Dear Ms. Beaty,

It's with great concern that I write you regarding the possibility of removing False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, and both Frigate and Bullet Mackerel from the list of the unmanaged forage amendment species. Not only are these fish important forage for larger predator species, but from a recreational angling prospective, the impact could be profound. False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito are considered prized gamefish from Cape Cod where I reside, to the shores of North Carolina and beyond. Numerous guides, the Travel/ Host industry, and magazine articles would attest to the economic implications that could result from a decline in these amazing fish.

Please help protect these important forage fish by keeping them under this amendment. We cannot afford to have another species reduced to fish oil or fertilizer. Thank you for your consideration.

Arnold Savolainen

East Dennis, MA

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Benjamin Stimson <benjaminstimson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 06, 2016 7:13 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Glade Albacore Forage Protection Request

Dear Mrs. Beaty,

I am writing to you in hopes the council will vote to protect false albacore as a forage bait fish so commercial interests cannot target them. We have a unique opportunity to forgo conventional morality and capitalize on this vote to protect one of the few fish we have that are thriving, for the simple fact that most people who kill fish do not kill these fish. They are absolutely a forage bait fish and they deserve protection. Bonito were much more abundant but now they are not. Striped bass too. Guides and local economies depend heavily on these fish, especially now since other stocks are in such poor shape. Since there is an increasing global demand for these fish they will be exported and not even utilized locally. What I find ironic is their demand is increasing simply because other more palatable fish are fished out. We cannot let this happen to Albies. Please do everything you can to ensure these fish keep helping our local coastal economies for they are infinitely more valuable to our states in the water than on a plate abroad. They have saved our fall fishing. I believe the scientific evidence shows these fish are absolutely baitfish, and as such we can use this as a means of protection. Thank you kindly for your time. There are thousands of people who feel exactly like I do and I hope the council will see that it is not a select few, but many many people who create millions of dollars of revenue each year so it is not merely a selfish angler's request, but the many business that rely on these anglers. Thanks kindly, and please let me know if I can do anything else to help.

Best,  
Benjamin

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## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Bill Bradley <hookipabill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 8:09 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Help protect

Dear Ms. Beaty,

It's with great concern that I write you regarding the possibility of removing False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, and both Frigate and Bullet Mackerel from the list of the unmanaged forage amendment species. Not only are these fish important forage for larger predator species, but from a recreational angling prospective, the impact could be profound. False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito are considered prized gamefish from Cape Cod where I reside, to the shores of North Carolina and beyond. Numerous guides, the Travel/ Host industry, and magazine articles would attest to the economic implications that could result from a decline in these amazing fish.

Please help protect these important forage fish by keeping them under this amendment. We cannot afford to have another species reduced to fish oil or fertilizer. Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Bradley  
South Yarmouth, MA

Sent from my iPad

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** william giokas <giokasharwich@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 10:16 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, Frigate and Bullet Mackerel

I am in support of not have these fish be included in the unmanaged forage species . I speak as an angler and what the impact would be if these species were to be commercially harvested. These fish first of all are not forage species , they are predators and not forage.

Second , these fish attract many anglers to Cape Cod and contribute to the economy far greater then the harvest value of these species.

Thirdly, the reason that these fish are even being considered is that other species have been over fished. Perhaps this is a more serious problem than the inclusion of these species which are not at the top of the harvest chain.

Hopefully the Council will agree with my concern.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Bill Giokas

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Bill <elements8r414@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 11:08 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Save the false albacore

Please keep the false a score listed as forage! THEY ARE A GREAT RECREATIONAL FISH!

Thank you,  
Bill Hansen

Sent from my iPhone

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Bob Lewis <bonds7@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 6:23 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Bonito & False Albacore

It has recently come to my attention that various species including false albacore, Atlantic bonito, frigate and bullet mackerel could be dramatically exposed to large scale commercial harvest. I strongly urge your committee members to better understand the economic impact these species provide to many economies on the east coast. These species provide perhaps the best catch and release fly fishing and light tackle fishery. Thousands of anglers travel to destinations and spend money on hotels, restaurants, fishing guides, tackle shops, tourist attractions, etc while in pursuit of these fish. I have traveled to Montauk, where your meeting will be held next week, at least 10-12 times in the past 6 years, solely for the opportunity to catch false albacore on the fly rod. I have traveled with my family, stayed in the local hotels, gone out to eat at the local restaurants, while my wife and daughters have shopped in the local stores. If the fish are no longer there, anglers and their families will no longer make those trips.

If you allow these species to be exposed to large scale commercial harvest, there will be severe economic impact to many towns from the Northeast all down the coast to Florida.

Bob Lewis  
President, Cape Cod Flyrodders

**Beaty, Julia**

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**From:** rparsons16@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 7:27 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Unmanaged forage amendment.

Dear Ms. Beaty,

I am concerned about the possibility of removing False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, and both Frigate and Bullet Mackerel from the list of the unmanaged forage amendment species. These fish are important forage for larger predator species. They are also from a recreational angling perspective, the impact could be profound. False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito are considered prized game fish from Cape Cod where I reside, to the shores of North Carolina and beyond. Numerous guides, the Travel/ Host industry, and magazine articles would attest to the economic implications that could result from a decline in these amazing fish.

Please help protect these important forage fish by keeping them under this amendment. We cannot afford to have another species reduced to fish oil or fertilizer. Thank you for your consideration.

Bob Parsons  
Reel-Time

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Brendan Cooney <cooney.brendan00@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 9:46 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Save our False Albacore!

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not remove false albacore, frigate, bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

I think we all know what will happen if we do not protect these fish. Time and again we have shown commercial endeavors outweigh the sanctity of ocean life.

Please hear everyone that has contacted you regarding this matter. We all stand united and want our children's children's children's children and so on to have the opportunity to fish for these amazing hardtails.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Brendan Cooney

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** coombs.brian <coombs.brian@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2016 9:18 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Albie and bonito management.

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not removing false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,  
Brian Coombs  
Get Tight Sport Fishing

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S® 6.

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Brian Vanderhoop <bvhoop@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 9:57 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Unmanaged Forage Amendment

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not remove false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. Their role may not be at the bottom of the food web, however, they are critical to many other species and removing them from the protection afforded them under this amendment would be a terrible mistake...they are indeed forage.

As a charter fisherman I know that False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,

Capt. Brian Vanderhoop

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Brian West <briwest70@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 2:44 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** DO NOT REMOVE

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not remove false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. As a fisherman and naturalist, I have traveled throughout the world observing predator prey interactions and I have seen false albacore many times. I've watched bonito being eaten by sailfish, marlin and bluefin tuna. Their role may not be at the bottom of the food web, however, they are critical to many other species and removing them from the protection afforded them under this amendment would be a terrible mistake...they are indeed forage.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,

William B. West

My Fishing Cape Cod

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Cameron O'Connell <cameron\_oconnell16@milton.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2016 9:40 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore

Dear Julia Beaty,

I have heard recent news about the possibility of certain fish (including the false albacore, bonito, and others) being removed from the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

I can assure you this is a poor decision for all the work that is being done to protect the atlantic fisheries. As you know, the food web is a delicate system, and opening up the possibility of further human intervention on the false albacore fishery would be detrimental to all of the ecosystem-based management that is in progress. Not only are the false albacore an important part of the food web, but they also bring recreational anglers a fantastic time. This directly supports the economy as anglers migrate with these fish in the fall, increasing tourism revenue.

Please consider the role of these fish not for me, not for the other anglers, but for the health of our ecosystem. Thank you.

Best,  
Cameron O'Connell

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Charles Perini <cperini@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 8:50 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False albacore petition

Dear Ms. Beaty,

As a recreational sport fisherman and fly fisherman, I look forward every fall to pursue False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito.

Removing False Albacore, Frigate and Bullet Mackerel, and Atlantic Bonito from the initial list of species under the "Unmanaged Forage Amendment", would greatly impact my sport. By allowing these fish to be harvested and reducing their populations would also reduce recreation saltwater licenses by sportsman like myself. These fish need to be protected before they follow the path of our other endangered fish in the oceans along our coastal waters.

Thank you, for your consideration in this matter.

Charles Perini

Sent from my iPad

**Beaty, Julia**

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**From:** charles ruoff <cruoff7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 4:21 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Fw: Unmanaged Forage Amendment

Please do not remove False Albacore, Frigate Mackerel, Bullet Mackerel or Atlantic Bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

Thank you,  
Charles A. Ruoff

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Chris Chan <cchan@chanmockarchitects.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 7:32 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Please do not remove these species from unmanaged forage amendment

Dear Julia

Please Do not remove Atlantic bonito , false albacore , frigate and bullet mackerel from the unmanaged forage amendment.

Doing so will destroy an amazing fishery.

The commercial menhaden fishery has decimated striped bass and other game fish stocks.

Best

Chris Chan

16 Haskell St

Cambridge MA 02140

127 Pettey Lane

Westport MA 02790

Sent from my iPad

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** chrisggill <chrisggill@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 8:21 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** List of Unmanaged Forage

Ms. Beaty—

Please do not pursue or support removing False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, Frigate or Bullet Mackerel from the list of Unmanaged Forage species. These fish are vital forage for larger tunas, billfish, and sharks. And in the case of False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito, they are fabulous game fish that thousands of anglers, from Massachusetts to Florida, spend millions of dollars trying to catch. In places like Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Rhode Island, Montauk and south through the Carolinas to Florida, many local guides depend on clients wanting to chase these fish with light tackle and fly rods. And these same clients spend a lot of money on plane tickets and rental cars and hotels, and local restaurants. Given the noticeable decline in striped bass numbers, false albacore and bonito are even more important as light tackle, inshore gamefish. Please continue to list them as Unmanaged Forage.

Thank you—  
Christopher Gill  
Mashpee, MA

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Chris McNally <CMcNally@srt-law.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2016 7:06 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Do not remove any species from the unmanaged fisheries list

Ms. Beaty,

This letter voices my concern over proposed amendments to the the forage species list.

It would be a short sighted and flawed decision to remove false albacore, bonito, and frigate mackerel from this list.

We have already seen the results of opening the gate towards developing new fisheries on forage species. The council must not allow such biologically and recreationally import an species to commercial harvest especially to foreign markets.

Respectfully,

Christopher J.McNally Esq.

4016621375

Sent from my Windows Phone

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Chris Pardue <olcoult@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 7:20 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Hard tales

The world is presently damaging multiple fisheries Please work to protect Albacore as a forage fish so they too don't get exploited Our children deserve to see these wonderful filled fish Thank you

Chris

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Craig Cantelmo <ccantelmo@vanstaal.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 8:33 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore a forage species

Julia,

My name is Craig Cantelmo and I've been working in the fishing industry now for nearly 20 years as a sales professional for Van Staal fishing products. Van Staal manufactures machined spinning reels that are completely sealed from saltwater and retail in excess of \$499 and we also make titanium fishing pliers that sell for \$350.00 and rely on primarily on saltwater inshore and surf fishing anglers to support our business. I also run a small inshore light tackle charter business.

I wanted to write you to let you know that on many occasions in mid-late summer I will find large tuna's chasing down and feeding on false albacore and have spent hours chasing after cruising bluefins on the surface that were pushing schools of "albies" into tight schools and then feeding on them. It's an awesome sight to see and there are some explosive feeds when a 500 plus tuna chases down a false albacore.

I travel up and down the East Coast selling my product to key fishing tackle dealers and from Massachusetts to New Jersey the false albacore is one of the big three that makes up our fall run. With the lack of striped bass in many of the usual areas like the Elizabeth Islands in MA, Newport RI and Montauk the past two falls the false albacore has kept Van Staal in business selling light tackle reels to striped bass anglers that now want to try to catch an Albie. This fish is a tremendously important fish to the tackle industry because the tackle required to catch them is usually lighter and smaller than what anglers would typically use for striped bass and bluefish and accounted for many sales the past two years.

The excitement that this fish brings to the inshore angler and the tackle business makes it one of the most valuable fish that pass through our area for a few weeks each year and I hope that we can protect this species as both a forage fish and a staple of the tackle industry in the North East.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with your questions or concerns,

Craig Cantelmo  
Van Staal  
631-365-7983

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Daniel Hand <goblin2@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 7:07 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Changes To The List of Unmanaged Species

Dear Ms. Beaty

Recent postings on the internet indicated that there is a proposal to remove False Albacore, Atlantic Bonita and both Frigate and Bullet Mackerel from the list of unmanaged forage species. I respectfully request that your committee members reconsider such a move.

The False Albacore and Atlantic Bonita, in addition to providing forage for large pelagic species, are major targets for recreational anglers. A reduction in the availability of these two species would have a major impact on the economies of the major sport fishing ports on the East Coast. Montauk, the site of your next meeting would be one of the ports that would suffer if there was a major reduction in the availability of these two species. Thousands of anglers spend thousands of dollars on fishing tackle, book fishing charters, stay at local motels and spend their money in local restaurants and Montauk is only one of many East Coast towns that would suffer significant adverse impact.

Please help protect these species. The adverse economic impact on the recreational fishery will be significantly greater than the economic benefit to the commercial fishing industry.

Dan Hand  
Cape Cod Flyrodders

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Daniel Emerson <danielemerson0@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 10:39 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False albacore % bonito

Please do not remove the forage status for bonito and false albacore. It will destroy our fishery.

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Dan Tobin <tobe72@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2016 7:26 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Protect False Albacore and Bonito

Dear Ms. Beaty,

It's with great concern that I write you regarding the possibility of removing False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, and both Frigate and Bullet Mackerel from the list of the unmanaged forage amendment species. Not only are these fish important forage for larger predator species, but from a recreational angling prospective, the impact could be profound. False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito are considered prized gamefish from Cape Cod where I reside, to the shores of North Carolina and beyond. Numerous guides, the Travel/ Host industry, and magazine articles would attest to the economic implications that could result from a decline in these amazing fish.

Please help protect these important forage fish by keeping them under this amendment. We cannot afford to have another species reduced to fish oil or fertilizer. Thank you for your consideration.

Daniel Tobin  
Cape Cod Fishermen

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Pirate <surfpirate@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2016 9:07 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Albies and Bones

Julia Beaty, Fishery Management Specialist  
302-526-5250  
[jbeaty@mafmc.org](mailto:jbeaty@mafmc.org)

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not removing false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. As an underwater cinematographer, I have traveled throughout the world filming predator prey interactions and I have seen and filmed false albacore extensively. I've watched bonito being eaten by sailfish, marlin and even whale sharks. Their role may not be at the bottom of the food web, however, they are critical to many other species and removing them from the protection afforded them under this amendment would be a terrible mistake...they are indeed forage.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,  
Dan O'Keefe

The problem with seeing the best (or worst) in people is that you fail to see the rest in people.

## Beatty, Julia

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**From:** dantonedog@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2016 9:57 AM  
**To:** Beatty, Julia  
**Subject:** In Favor of Including False Albacore and Bonito as Ecosystem Component Species to Fishery Management Plans

Dear Ms. Beatty and the Council,

I was gratified to learn that the Mid-Atlantic Council had initiated action to prohibit the development of new, or expansion of existing, directed fisheries on unmanaged forage species until adequate scientific information is available. I write now to encourage the Council to include False Albacore and Bonito as Ecosystem Component species to the relevant Fishery Management Plans for Council-managed stocks.

I am a frequent and enthusiastic recreational angler, and False Albacore and Bonito have long been among my favorite target species. More to the point, however, is that in my time on the water I have come to see firsthand and appreciate the important ecological role that Albies and Bones play in the Mid-Atlantic fishery. As both predators and prey themselves -- occupying the mid-level between the plankton and smaller forage species below and the sharks, other pelagics, marine mammals and birds above -- False Albacore and Bonito facilitate the transfer of energy from the lowest levels of the food chain to higher levels and have a critical role in sustaining the productivity and structure of marine ecosystems.

Currently, the role of False Albacore and Bonito as forage is insufficiently unaccounted for in scientific study and entirely unmanaged. In my opinion, they are certainly worthy of further study and, ultimately, management for sustainability. Their inclusion as Ecosystem Component species to the relevant Fishery Management Plans would advance these important and worthy goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dan M. Rather  
155 E.31st ST 28A  
New York, NY 10016

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Dan Salmon <sox95@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 2:29 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Retired Fisherman

4/10/2016

Dear Ms. Beaty

As a retired person I spend a great deal of my life trying to catch and release False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito they are not plentiful and are very difficult to catch.

Please do not endanger them anymore the they are by removing them from the list of unmanaged forage fish.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely  
Dan Salmon

Dan Salmon  
sox95@aol.com  
85 Beaumont Dr  
Northbridge, Ma 01534

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Dave Altrich <daltrich@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2016 7:18 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore forage fish amendment

Good Evening Julia,

MY name is Dave Altrich and I own a custom fishing rod shop named Altrich Anglers in Mass. I heard the False Albacore may be being considered for large scale commercial fishing. Please don't let that happen. This game fish is a true jewel for inshore anglers and I would hate to see it wiped out or decimated by draggers or large scale net operations. Please keep this from happening.

I do support small scale Rod and reel harvest as I feel that can be effectively managed. I'm like a kid on Xmas morning when the Albies show up. I want to conserve them for generations to come. Please, please make the right call on this.

Regards,  
Dave Altrich  
Sent from my iPhone

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Dave Langan <dlangan@nycap.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 8:18 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** comments on the Unmanaged Forage Amendment

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not remove false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are very important to me personally and the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them.

We cannot afford to have game fish status of these fish designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,

David A. Langan, PhD  
Clifton Park, NY

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Palmer, David S <david.s.palmer@verizon.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 9:41 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Cc:** portpalmer@aol.com  
**Subject:** Help Protect False Albacore & Bonito

Dear Ms. Beaty,

I'm writing you regarding the possibility of removing False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, and both Frigate and Bullet Mackerel from the list of the unmanaged forage amendment species. Not only are these fish important forage for larger predator species, but from a recreational angling prospective, the impact could be profound. False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito are considered prized gamefish along most of the East Coast. Numerous guides, the Travel/ Host industry, and magazine articles would attest to the economic implications that could result from a decline in these amazing fish.

Please help protect these important forage fish by keeping them under this amendment. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks



David Palmer  
Technical Program Manager  
Global Client Services

125 High Street Floor 3  
Boston MA 02110

O 617.535.5615 | M 508.245.7206  
[David.S.Palmer@verizon.com](mailto:David.S.Palmer@verizon.com)



## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Dean Clark <seaflycapecod@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 11:52 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False albacore/Atlantic bonito

Ms Beaty,

I am certain that you have heard from many other informed individuals about the terrific sporting qualities of the false albacore and the Atlantic bonito. It's all true. No doubt you have also been informed of the tremendous financial contribution these fish bring to the recreational, coastal fishing industry. Also true.

Both of these factors are very real and not only involve multiple thousands of individuals but account for many times more economic activity than would ever be created by allowing for a reduction fishery of these fish.

Collectively we have a poor record of responsibly managing our ocean's resources. These fish need to be protected from what would certainly be just one more commercial resource grab which will certainly result in over harvesting and the destruction of the recreational economy these fish support.

Now is not the time to permit false albacore and Atlantic bonito to be exploited and degraded by commercial interests. I hope this will be your Committee's recommendation and be accepted by the full body of the MAFMC going forward.

This is an opportunity for the MAFMC to accept their resource stewardship roles with a sincere commitment to the future. Given that so many of our marine fin fish are suffering from so many adverse environmental variables now is definitely not the time to open up our oceans to even more undermanaged over-harvesting.... especially of such recreationally valuable fish.

Thank you for your and the your committee's considerations.

Sincerely,  
Dean Clark  
Stripers Forever, member Board of Directors  
[www.stripersforever.org](http://www.stripersforever.org)

## Beaty, Julia

---

**From:** dexchads@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2016 6:57 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Protecting Forage Fish

Julia Beaty, Fishery Management Specialist  
302-526-5250  
jbeaty@mafmc.org

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not remove false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. As a fisherman and naturalist, I have traveled throughout the world observing predator prey interactions and I have seen false albacore many times. I've watched bonito being eaten by sailfish, marlin and even tuna. Their role may not be at the bottom of the food web, however, they are critical to many other species and removing them from the protection afforded them under this amendment would be a terrible mistake...they are indeed forage.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,  
Dex Chadsey

My Fishing Cape Cod

**Beaty, Julia**

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**From:** Ed Farrell-Starbuck <efstarbuck49@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 10:27 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia

Dear Ms. Beaty, I am joining colleagues and friends on Cape Cod and in Block Island Sound in expressing serious concern about changing the status of False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, and Frigate and Bullet Mackerel listed as unmanaged forage amendment species. That sounds so technical, but in reality False Albacore and Bonito are much sought after fish by sports fisherfolk in these parts and south to the Carolinas. Please refrain from removing these fish species from the list.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ed Farrell-Starbuck

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** E James Oxley <ejames\_oxley@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 06, 2016 9:47 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore

False albacore need to be protected as a great game fish and not as just unmanned forage. This population does not need to decline, it provides economic stimulus in fishing opportunities for guides, marinas and associated businesses from NC to ME.

Please act to prohibit the development of new, or expansion of existing, directed fisheries on unmanaged forage species until adequate scientific information is available to promote ecosystem sustainability.

Thank you,  
Jamie Oxley

Jamie Oxley, Broker/Realtor®  
Odean Kever & Assocs. Real Estate  
140 US Hwy. 64  
Rutherfordton, NC 28139  
Phone (828) 286-1311  
Fax (828) 287-4223  
Cell (828) 606-2557  
[email-ejames\\_oxley@bellsouth.net](mailto:email-ejames_oxley@bellsouth.net)

Please review the Working with Real Estate Agents brochure before discussing specifics with a Real Estate Agent.  
<http://www.ncrec.gov/Brochures/WorkingwAgents.pdf>



## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Etan Zimmet <etanz117@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2016 8:10 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore/Atlantic Bonito Protection

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not removing false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

As an avid inshore sport fisherman that doesn't own a boat and am only limited to fishing on beaches and piers, I've witnessed a huge decline of opportunity when it comes to catching false albacore and Atlantic bonito, as well bluefish and striped bass. I don't know the quality of fishing for boat anglers so I won't be able to comment on that...I will only write to you of my own experience. I believe false albacore should receive the same care that tarpon do in the south. After-all, they are a guest here in our waters in the northeast. I used to go fishing many months out of the year when I was younger (particularly May, June, September-November) and in recent years the drive has unfortunately left my body to where I end up not going as much as I should. I release 95% of the fish I catch and am all about conservation when it comes to wildlife and marine-life. For a fish that is considered by many the best inshore fighting fishing especially in the northeast, why not give them all of the protection we can. Commercial fishing and irresponsible recreational angling has done so much damage the last several decades and the results are pretty obvious to me. In New York, Bluefish limits recreationally are 15 fish a man. Honestly why is that number so high? I can barely catch 5 or more on a good day. Again I'm sure party and private boats might see it differently. But a full party boat can hold 90 people and they would be allowed to keep 15 bluefish each? That's absolutely insane. Went over to a different fish here but had to get that out. I think it would be best for conservation efforts to prohibit keeping any false albacore and encourage a tag-and-release program to help monitor these fish for a better understanding of them. Their part of a chain in the ocean that is in dire need of protection from over-fishing and pollution. Unfortunately at the end of the day I know ultimately \$\$\$ will dictate the overall outcome of fishery protection in general but I do ask if you can do whatever you can to protect false albacore and prevent their numbers from seeing disastrous downfalls especially once commercial boats be allowed to catch them. I was informed of a meeting next Tuesday that will result in a win or loss for these fish as well as the sport fishermen who love and appreciate these game fish. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated by not only me, but thousands of anglers in the northeast that rely on taking people out on a good time and have the experience to catch a false albacore or atlantic bonito.

Sincerely,  
Etan Zimmet

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Gen Wong <genchino@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 10:24 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False albacore, Atlantic bonito

Please save these fish don not remove them from the list.  
Thank you gen Wong  
Union New Jersey

Sent from my iPad

## Beaty, Julia

---

**From:** George Jacobi <gjfishn@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2016 12:28 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** fisheries

It would be a terrible mistake to allow any kind of commercial fishery for Bonito and False Albacore.  
Please don't allow it to happen.  
George Jacobi

## Beaty, Julia

---

**From:** Gerald Karush <gkarush@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 8:16 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Protecting False Albacore and Bonito

Dear Ms. Beaty,

I am writing you because I have serious concerns regarding the possibility of removing False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, and both Frigate and Bullet Mackerel from the list of the unmanaged forage amendment species. These fish are not only important forage for larger predator species, but are an important recreational angling game fish. The impact of this policy changes likely to be very negative from both an ecological and economic perspective. I live in Woods Hole, on Cape Cod and False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito are considered prized gamefish from New England down to the coast of North Carolina and beyond to Florida. This proposed policy change will undoubtedly lead to a decline in these fish populations, also affecting the populations of predator fish who feed on them. The negative economic impacts on coastal communities who attract anglers will also be significant. Anglers pour substantial dollars into these local communities when they come to fish for these species. Through the multiplier effect the dollars spent, by my fellow anglers in pursuit of these great fish, add substantial amounts of dollars to the local communities as well as have significant employment generating effects for the local labor force.

Please help protect these important forage and game fish by keeping them protected under this amendment. It is critical to protect and grow all fish populations. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Gerald Karush, PhD  
Woods Hole, Ma. 02543

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Gregory Myhre <huggin50@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 10:26 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore

Save the false albacore, please  
Greg Myhre

Sent from my iPad

## Beaty, Julia

---

**From:** Gregory <flyfishingcapecod12@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 6:50 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Fishing changes

Hello , I just wanted to take a min to voice my opinion on the rules poccibly being changed on false albacore. I have been hearing that there is a chance they will be open to commercial fishing. I sure hope this doesn't happen!!! I'm an avid fly fisherman who has tried for years to catch the elusive species and has not happened yet. I will continue to try but my chances will no doubt be diminished if the species is opened to commercial fishing and harvest. I live on cape cod and many of people travel here to do what I do and hunt these fish. If the species declines in vast numbers surly people won't keep coming back and that can spell bad news for a lot of local buissness that really heavily on tourism. Just to recap please don't change things as false albacore is basicaly the holy grail on a fly rod and I hope to catch one soon and have this fishery here for my son and family as he grows up. Thanks for your time and I hope you strongly concider keeping the fish protected.

Sent from my iPhone

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Hayden Gallagher <hgallagher1617@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2016 11:20 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Protecting forage fish

Dear Julia Beaty,

I am asking for the continued protection of false albacore, frigate fish, bull mackerel, and atlantic bonito. These fish are indeed forage fish, and are incredibly important to me as an eighteen year old angler. They are not just fish that provide fun for recreational anglers, but they are fish that have great importance to the food chain. Larger predators such as marlin, and bluefin tuna depend on them as a food source. Bonito, and false Albacore are also fish which provides countless chartered boat trips, especially with the declined striped bass population. Thank you for your careful consideration of this important decision.

Thank you,  
Hayden Gallagher

## Beaty, Julia

---

**From:** Henry Godin <godinfam@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2016 4:53 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** A letter of appeal

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not remove false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under Unmanaged Forage Amendment. False albacore and Atlantic bonito are prized game fish from Cape Cod to North Carolina. The financial implication to the numerous guides and the travel/host industry would be profound. Please help protect these fish by keeping them under this amendment. We do not need any more fish being turned into cat food or fertilizer just to line somebody's pockets. Thank you for your consideration.

Henry Godin  
Barnstable, MA

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Henry Marcucella <hm@bu.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 10:43 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Bonito and false albacore

I am appalled to discover that the topic of allowing the commercial harvest of bonito and false albacore has even been raised. These fish are in the class of game fish that contains tarpon and bonefish. Why would anyone want to jeopardize such a valuable resource?

This is particularly true given the decline in striped bass fishing. Bonito and false albacore fishing saved the season for many guides and recreational fishermen on Cape Cod last season. We are destroying the striped bass fishery so we are now trying to jeopardize the bonito and false albacore fishing? Someone needs to organize the entire recreational fishing industry including boat manufacturers, dealers, charter fishermen, fishing shops, tackle dealers, marinas, fishing clubs, and the fishermen themselves into a political action group that will apply some real political pressure.

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Jack Creighton <jecreighton45@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 1:04 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Cc:** Steve Unsworth  
**Subject:** Unmanaged Forage Amendment

Dear Ms. Beaty,

Please do not remove false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment. These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. Their role may be at the bottom of the food web, but they are critical to many other species and removing them from the protection afforded them under this amendment would be a terrible mistake...they are indeed forage.

As president of the Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club, with approximately 400 members, i feel that the risk of continuing the decimation of recreational fishing is too large a risk to take. Sportfisherpeople, tackle shops, six-pack fishing trip captains, and the hotel/motel trade will be severely hurt by the loss of these species. As a Cape Coddier and no longer able to catch codfish on Cape Cod, I feel that now, more than ever, management with vision has to be utilized. In closing, if you examine the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby, which includes bonito and false albacore, you will see that the thousands of dollars generated for charitable causes would have been lost if not for false albacore and bonito because of the obvious downtrend of striped bass and bluefish. Please do not remove these four fish.

Sincerely,

Jack Creighton, President, Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club

**Beaty, Julia**

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**From:** Jack Wishart <jwishart05@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 8:41 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Bonito and False Albacore

Will all respect,

Please protect these vital species which provides tremendous revenue for local economies along the Atlantic seaboard from recreational anglers. Please avert a population extinction, and protect these species.

Most respectfully,  
John Wishart  
Sandwich, MA

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Jamie Golden <jamesgolden3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 10:39 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** keep the false albacore listed as forage

Dear Ms. Beaty,

I hope this email finds you well. Please note that this communication is a direct notice to keep false albacore listed as forage. This is one of the most important species in this ecosystem, and failing to do so could result in collapses of fisheries throughout. This sentiment is shared by concerned anglers along our whole coast.

Thanks for your understanding.

Sincerely,  
James Golden  
Outdoor writer, angling authority, and IT professional  
[jamesgolden3@gmail.com](mailto:jamesgolden3@gmail.com)

## Beaty, Julia

---

**From:** JAMES <JSiatkowski@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2016 6:37 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Unmanaged Forage Amendment

Julia Beaty, Fishery Management Specialist  
302-526-5250  
jbeaty@mafmc.org

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not removing false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. As an underwater cinematographer, I have traveled throughout the world filming predator prey interactions and I have seen and filmed false albacore extensively. I've watched bonito being eaten by sailfish, marlin and even whale sharks. Their role may not be at the bottom of the food web, however, they are critical to many other species and removing them from the protection afforded them under this amendment would be a terrible mistake...they are indeed forage.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,  
James Siatkowski

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

## Beaty, Julia

---

**From:** Jim Jaques <jjaques1@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2016 12:48 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Unmanaged Forage Amendment  
**Attachments:** pastedGraphic.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not removing false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,

**Jim Jaques**  
**401-301-1225**

## **Beaty, Julia**

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**From:** Jim Mize <jim@automartusedcars.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 10:59 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Please do not removing false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment

Dear Julia Beaty,

This is copied and edited however it is the truth.

Please do not removing false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. . Their role may not be at the bottom of the food web, however, they are critical to many other species and removing them from the protection afforded them under this amendment would be a terrible mistake...they are indeed forage.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

*Jim Mize*

**Automart**

53 South Main St  
Derry NH 03038  
(603) 425 1855

[www.automartusedcars.com](http://www.automartusedcars.com)

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Joe Anoneuvo <bayhound96@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 10:07 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore

Dear Ms. Beaty,

As a recreational sport fisherman, I look forward every fall to pursue False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito.

I have seen these fish in the gullets of larger predatory fish such as mako sharks, tunas, marlin, swordfish, and even stripers and blues. These fish are an important part the diets of these fish as well as others.

Removing False Albacore, Frigate and Bullet Mackerel, and Atlantic Bonito from the initial list of species under the "Unmanaged Forage Amendment", would greatly impact my sport. By allowing these fish to be harvested and reducing their populations would also reduce recreation saltwater licenses by sportsman like myself. These fish need to be protected before they follow the path of our other endangered fish in the oceans along our coastal waters.

Thank you, for your consideration in this matter.

-Joseph K. Anonuevo  
PFC. USMC

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Joe Steiniger <northcountryjoe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 12:36 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False albacore

I am writing to add my voice to those who would ask you keep false albacore listed as a forage fish. Given the decimation of other gamefish, particularly striped bass, we must do what we can to protect what is left of the recreational fishery on Long Island.

Thank you for the consideration.

Joe Steiniger

Cell | Text | 518.321.0947  
WFA Office | 845.483.7940  
POB 446 Schroon Lake, NY 12870

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** John Migliori <johncmigz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 7:00 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Forage list

I here that a select group of species, including false albacore, bonito, and others will removed from the unmanaged forage amendment. This is terrible news to a lot of recreational anglers. These fish definitely play a very important role in underwater life, as well out of the water. Please reconsider your plan Thank you, john Migliori Sent from my iPhone

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** john payne <jpayne\_flyfishr1@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 8:21 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Cc:** Bob Lewis; Vincent Foti  
**Subject:** Unmanaged forage amendment species

Dr. Ms. Beaty,

It is unconscionable to think that any species of fish in this day and age would be subjected to unregulated commercial harvest. False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, Frigate and Bullet Mackerel have far more reaching importance to the ecosystem of the oceans and recreational fishing industries than one could possibly imagine. The impact on the fishing would be detrimental. Not only for recreational fishermen but all local businesses as well all along their entire region.

False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito are undoubtedly some of the most beautiful and exciting sought after game fish for light tackle and fly rod anglers that swim in our waters from Cape Cod and all the Atlantic seaboard. Please keep these species on the amendment. By removing them from the list of Unmanaged Forage Amendment Species would greatly impact ALL of the predator species of marine mammals and gamefish such as Blue Fin Tuna, Marlins, etc.

Please consider this with your committee members to help protect and promote these amazing fishes. They play a major role in the balance of the entire ecosystem of the Atlantic Ocean.

Sincerely,

John Payne, member Cape Cod Flyrodders  
Sent from my iPhone

## Beaty, Julia

---

**From:** joseph demalderis <crosscurrent@optonline.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2016 8:59 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Unmanaged Forage Amendment

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not remove false albacore, and Atlantic bonito from the list of the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. False albacore and Atlantic bonito are also very important to the recreational angling community. Professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation. The economics of their recreational value far out weighs their commercial value. In addition to guides, part boats, tackle shops, hotels, restaurants, gas stations, marinas, boat dealers and and a host of other businesses derive a significant part of their income form these fish.

Seize the opportunity before you to not throw these fish and the fish like tuna, and various billfish that rely on them as forage. out the window.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joe Demalderis

Cross Current Guide Service & Outfitters  
Capt. Joe Demalderis  
Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide  
[www.crosscurrentguideservice.com](http://www.crosscurrentguideservice.com)

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** JUSTIN <jutmanb@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2016 8:04 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Un-managed forage amendment

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not removing false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. As an underwater cinematographer, I have traveled throughout the world filming predator prey interactions and I have seen and filmed false albacore extensively. I've watched bonito being eaten by sailfish, marlin and even whale sharks. Their role may not be at the bottom of the food web, however, they are critical to many other species and removing them from the protection afforded them under this amendment would be a terrible mistake...they are indeed forage.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely, Capt. Justin A. Vyce

## Beaty, Julia

---

**From:** Keith McArt <kamcart@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2016 9:00 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Protect the False Albacore, Frigate and Bullet Mackerel and Atlantic Bonito

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not removing false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them.

As an angler, and a father, I want to be sure that my children have the same opportunity as I have had to experience catching these powerful and beautiful species in Massachusetts waters for years to come. I have seen what happens when commercial fishermen shift their focus to new unprotected species when they exhausted their usual quarry.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Please help us protect these resources from commercial interests. We are relying on you to act in the best interest of the resource.

Sincerely,  
Keith McArt

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** lawrence burke <larrynamath@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 2:39 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Bonito soup, is it worth it?  
**Attachments:** fish stock.jpe

Please do not approve this. We have raped the oceans enough. There is no US market for these fish and will be all sold over seas to people who have depleted all there ocean stocks with no remorse. Intelligence is the only defense for ignorance.

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Mark Philippe <flycaster610@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2016 6:24 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Unmanaged Forage Amendment

Julia Beaty  
Fishery Management Specialist

Dear Ms. Beaty,

I'm writing this to urge you not to drop little tunny and Atlantic bonito from the Unmanaged Forage Amendment. I'm sure you are aware of the importance of these two fish to the pelagic ecosystem. Many species of fish, such as tuna, are very important to the economy and these two fish are very important to their well being. The harvesting of another forage fish, menhaden, is but one example where there is evidence of a negative impact on another fish, the striped bass. Please reconsider this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Philippe  
Burlington, CT

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Matthew Butcka <mbutcka@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 3:54 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore/ Atlantic Bonito/ Frigate Mackerel

Dear Ms. Beaty,

As a recreational sport fisherman and fly fisherman, I look forward every fall to pursue False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito.

Removing False Albacore, Frigate and Bullet Mackerel, and Atlantic Bonito from the initial list of species under the "Unmanaged Forage Amendment", would greatly impact my sport. By allowing these fish to be harvested and reducing their populations would also reduce recreation saltwater licenses by sportsman like myself. These fish need to be protected before they follow the path of our other endangered fish in the oceans along our coastal waters.

Thank you, for your consideration in this matter.

Best regards,

Matthew Butcka  
(860)917-0192

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Mathew DiGiovanna <mathew.digiovanna@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 10:47 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** SAVE FALSE ALBACORE

Julia,

Please do not remove false albacore frigate and bullet mackerel and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the unmanaged forage amendment.

These are sport fish and deserve to be protected.

Mat

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** e <docflyrod@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2016 3:02 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Removal of False Albacore (*Euthynnus alletteratus*) and Atlantic Bonito (*Sarda sarda*)st

9 April 2012

equate

Julia Beaty: Fishery Management Specialisted

It would be an unwise marine fishery management decision if False albacore and Atlantic bonito were to be removed from the Unmanaged Forage Amendment. It is well known that the diversity of biotic fauna is important to the balance of the global ecosystem. The sensitive interrelationship between predator and prey, wolves and deer was well documented , long ago, by the Isle Royal studies. The Bluefin Tuna represents an important food source for the United States, Japan, etch. Failure to maintain abundant yields of prey species will cause a decline in those species that rely upon them for food. It is pretty clear that Striped bass populations are in decline because of over fishing and also because of the huge demand for fish oil which has caused a severe decline in the populations of Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*). Tinker mackerel (*Scomber colias*) had declined some years ago and have not recovered. Both of these species have been important forage for Striped Bass. It is difficult to make the case that one or two actors in an ecotone is the root cause of an environmental problem. It is, however, reasonable to assume that all elements have an impact and that the demise of any element, over time, will have a deleterious impact. The marine ecosystem continues to be discounted by myriad environmental impacts. Can we afford to further discount pelagic and coastal ecosystems by fostering poor management decisions? I would sincerely urge you to do your utmost to preserve the necessary diversity of the marine environment.

Respectfully Yours,

Merrill S. Katz, PhD- Outdoor Recreation Resources & Environment

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Michael Behot <michael.behot@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 9:19 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia; Madelaine Ford  
**Subject:** False Albacore

Hello,

I am writing with regard to the notion of removing false albacore and bonito from the unmanaged forage amendment. These fish are some of the last healthy species on the East Coast and it would be a shame to let one more species fail because of short sighted commercial interest. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael S. Behot

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Fortier, Michael <Michael.Fortier@epsilon.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 11:41 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Forage fish

Dear Ms. Beaty, As a recreational sport fisherman and fly fisherman, I look forward every fall to pursue False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito.

Removing False Albacore, Frigate and Bullet Mackerel, and Atlantic Bonito from the initial list of species under the "Unmanaged Forage Amendment", would greatly impact my sport. By allowing these fish to be harvested and reducing their populations would also reduce recreation saltwater licenses by sportsman like myself. These fish need to be protected before they follow the path of our other endangered fish in the oceans along our coastal waters.

Thank you, for your consideration in this matter.

Myke Fortier  
978.886.2826  
Sent from my iPhone

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## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Michael Gerrity <michaelgerrity@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 11:25 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Cc:** Vinny Foti  
**Subject:** Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment

Dear Ms. Beaty

It has come to my attention that the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Council is in the process of considering changes to the Unmanaged forage fishery. I am writing to express my concern about several of those proposed changes. Your memo of April 1, 2016 states on page 4 in Highly Migratory Species section that “The Council likely intended to include only chub macular, bullet mackerel, frigate mackerel, and little tunny [also known as false albacore].” It is the last of these, false albacore, that significantly concerns me. I live on Cape Cod in Mass. but the migratory nature on this species makes the Mid Atlantic management of particular concern to me. This game fish has been an important part of our recreational fishery for some time and as the stocks of Striped Bass have continued to dwindle, it has gained even more significance. Our recreational fishery has decreased and that is leading to some significant economic impact for those of us that depend on fishing charters and associated expenditures. While that does not concern me directly, it does impact our community. We have an active fly fishing club here and spend a significant amount of time and money recreational fishing and Bonita and False Albacore. There are also a number of our members who fish yearly in Mid Atlantic waters during the Fall months, specifically for false albacore spending thousands of dollars in your economic region. If I understand the numbers presented in your memo, the little tuna is already under tremendous pressure with over 3.8 million pounds landed and an unknown amount caught and discarded as by-catch.

Please advocate for Bonita and False Albacore to be more protected so that they can continue to add to our economic growth as a highly sought after game fish. I strongly feel that they are add more economically through the economic activity generated with recreational fishing than through their harvest, particularly when there are other species that fill a similar niche but are not also game fish.

Sincerely,  
Michael Gerrity M.D.

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Michael Mathias <mjmbldgdes@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2016 4:00 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not remove false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. As a fisherman I believe their role may not be at the bottom of the food web, however, they are critical to many other species and removing them from the protection afforded them under this amendment would be a terrible mistake...they are indeed forage.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,

Michael Mathias

My Fishing Cape Cod

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Mike Pavlov <mikepavlov2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 11:24 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore

Dear Ms. Beaty,

Please leave sports anglers something of the ocean. The Striped Bass have declined and are declining considerably in the last five years. Blue Fish have basically disappeared for more than ten years. And weakfish have been gone for decades. The only silver lining in all of this are False Albacore. There is 4 week window when we can catch these beautiful gamesters and are caught and released back into the ocean. Let's try to manage at least one fishery so that it doesn't disappear like all the others.

Thank you for your time,  
Michael Pavlov

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Michael Angel Sardinas <Masardinas@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 8:59 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore, Frigate , Bullet Mackerel and Bonito

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not removing false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. Bonito are being eaten by sailfish, marlin and even whale sharks.

Their role may not be at the bottom of the food web, however, they are critical to many other species and removing them from the protection afforded them under this amendment would be a terrible mistake...they are indeed forage.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,

Michale Angel Sardinas



SARDINAS

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** indianadoc@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 9:04 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Unmanaged Forage Amendment

Dear Ms. Beaty,

My current role in the world is as a Professor for International Educations Programs, Inc. serving the needs of Teachers in English Language Schools throughout Latin America, Korea, Taiwan, China, and Indonesia. This is a very rewarding occupation, but unfortunately I do get to see what a lack of regulation has on the wildlife and on the environment in many of the world's most beautiful places.

This letter is to express my serious concern over the possibility of removing several aquatic species protection via regulation. False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, Frigate and Bullet Mackerel are currently protected by the Unmanaged Forage Amendment. To remove them from this list and open them to commercial fishing will endanger a source of food for many larger species and threaten a valuable recreational fishery. As a former Orvis Endorsed Guide my September and October clients here on Cape Cod focused their attention on False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito. A reduction of these fish will threaten a valuable recreational fishery and the income of many of my former colleagues.

I urge you to keep these valued species listed in the Unmanaged Forage Amendment and away from the possibility of being reduced to fish oil and fertilizer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele Andolina

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Mike Laptew <laptew@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2016 4:11 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Keep False Albacore on the Unmanaged Forage Amendment list

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not removing false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. As an underwater cinematographer, I have traveled throughout the world filming predator prey interactions and I have seen and filmed false albacore extensively. I've watched bonito being eaten by sailfish, marlin and even whale sharks. Their role may not be at the bottom of the food web, however, they are critical to many other species and removing them from the protection afforded them under this amendment would be a terrible mistake...they are indeed forage.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,  
Mike Laptew  
Laptew Productions

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Myron Schulman <myron.schulman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 2:42 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Unmanaged Forage Amendment regarding False Albacore and Bonito

Dear Julia:

As a passionate environmentalist and concerned angler, I am deeply troubled at learning that thought is being given to dropping False Albacore and Bonito from the protection of the Unmanaged Forage Amendment . I believe this would be disastrous to their populations and dramatically reduce the food base available to larger predators such as tuna. We've seen the result of the depletion of menhaden and unwise management practices in the Striped Bass Fishery.

Recreational fishermen plan vacations and travel considerable distances for the thrill of casting to these ocean speedsters! The well being of False Albacore and Bonito also impacts the economy of shoreline communities and those who earn their living by taking people fishing.

I believe these valuable resources must be safeguarded. Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

Myron Schulman  
19 Clifford Drive  
West Hartford, CT 06107



## North Carolina Guides Association

*" The North Carolina Guides Association is a professional trade association of the for-hire guide industry promoting stewardship of our state-managed fisheries and a sustainable future for our coastal economies"*

Dear Chairman Robins,

**The North Carolina Guides Association (NCGA) is writing to request that the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council keep false albacore and Atlantic bonito on the full list of unmanaged forage species for consideration under the Unmanaged Forage Fish Amendment.**

The NCGA is a 501(c)6 organization that represent the interests of North Carolina's for-hire fishing industry. As an official trade association, our members include a diverse group of for-hire captains from across coastal North Carolina.

We commend the MAFMC for your proactive stance in pursuing the protection of unmanaged forage species. We were particularly excited to see the inclusion of false albacore and Atlantic Bonito. These two species are extremely important to recreational anglers in North Carolina and throughout the Council's jurisdiction.

The NCGA has long been concerned with the status of false albacore and Atlantic Bonito, which are not currently managed by any east coast state or management body. There are no protections in place to prevent the development of a targeted commercial fishery for these species. We believe this is a problem waiting to happen.

We understand the logic behind the Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Committee's recommendation to remove false albacore and Atlantic Bonito from the list of unmanaged forage species for consideration. However, this would be a missed opportunity. Other pathways for protecting these species (e.g. through the Atlantic HMS FMP or relying on the states to adopt regulations) are too uncertain a path for these valuable species. Including them in the unmanaged forage amendment is a simple, low-cost mechanism to provide reasonable protection for these species until a broader conversation about their management can take place.

Protecting the health and abundance of false albacore and Atlantic Bonito is vitally important to east coast recreational anglers and the for-hire industry. The NCGA appreciates the Council's proactive and forward-thinking approach to forage fish management. We encourage you to include both of these species in the list of species for consideration during the public comment process.

Sincerely,  
Capt. Tom Roller, President  
[capttom@ncguidesassociation.com](mailto:capttom@ncguidesassociation.com)

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Harry Graff <harry.graff3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 3:55 AM  
**To:** Vincent Foti  
**Cc:** Beaty, Julia; Bob Lewis; Steve Unsworth; Harry Graff  
**Subject:** Re: A letter of appeal

Suggestion

Magnesium Act requires NOAA to consider the impact of their regs on employment

Maybe point out the thousands of recreation fishing related jobs connected with these species

Am applying for asylum in Iceland just in case the next election doesn't work out well

Tak tak  
Ollie Graff

Sent from my iPod

> On Apr 9, 2016, at 1:01 PM, Vincent Foti <vinnyf18@verizon.net> wrote:

>

> Dear Ms. Beaty,

>

> It's with great concern that I write you regarding the possibility of removing False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, and both Frigate and Bullet Mackerel from the list of the unmanaged forage amendment species. Not only are these fish important forage for larger predator species, but from a recreational angling prospective, the impact could be profound. False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito are considered prized gamefish from Cape Cod where I reside, to the shores of North Carolina and beyond. Numerous guides, the Travel/ Host industry, and magazine articles would attest to the economic implications that could result from a decline in these amazing fish.

>

> Please help protect these important forage fish by keeping them under this amendment. We cannot afford to have another species reduced to fish oil or fertilizer. Thank you for your consideration.

>

> Vin Foti

> Cape Cod Flyrodder - BOD

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> }> ))))) , \* >

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Paul Richards <striper239@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 8:23 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Cc:** Vincent Foti  
**Subject:** Albies et al

As a Cape Cod fisherman and retired Certified Fisheries Scientist (American Fisheries Society), I request that you protect false albacore, bonito, and frigate and bullet mackerels from commercial harvest. There are too many examples of prey/predator species being exploited with a cascading effect both within the food web and in the secondary economy. These species, as both prey and predator components, are important to both the ecosystem and economy. They are worthy of protection. It has been the experience of most fisheries scientists that once exploitation has hit a critical threshold, recovery is slow and uncertain. This can be avoided.

Respectfully,  
F. Paul Richards

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** captainpetefarrell@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 3:20 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False albacore as forage.

Dear Ms. Beaty . I hope this email finds you in good spirits. I implore you to protect false albacore under "forage" as there is no suitable commercial value for this inedible fish. Nonetheless this is a magnificent gamefish that yearns for protection. Please don't forget sand eels, Atlantic silversides, menhaden and bay anchovies.

Thank you,

Capt. Pete Farrell

Sent from my iPhone

**Beaty, Julia**

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**From:** Phil Duckett <phil.duckett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2016 7:41 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Save the Bonito and Albies

Julia Beaty, Fishery Management Specialist  
302-526-5250  
[jbeaty@mafmc.org](mailto:jbeaty@mafmc.org)

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not remove false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. As an underwater cinematographer, I have traveled throughout the world filming predator prey interactions and I have seen and filmed false albacore extensively. I've watched bonito being eaten by sailfish, marlin and even whale sharks. Their role may not be at the bottom of the food web, however, they are critical to many other species and removing them from the protection afforded them under this amendment would be a terrible mistake...they are indeed forage.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,  
Phil Duckett

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## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** richard banks <thirdstarcc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 7:32 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Fishing Concerns

Dear Ms. Beaty

It has recently come to my attention that False Albacore, Atlantic bonito, frigate and bullet mackerel could be drastically exposed to large scale commercial harvest. I strongly urge your committee members to better understand the economic impact these species provide to many economies on the east coast. These species provide perhaps the best catch and release fly fishing and light tackle fishery. Thousands of anglers travel to destinations and spend money on hotels, restaurants, fishing guides, tackle shops, tourist attractions, etc while in pursuit of these fish. Thousands of people have traveled to Montauk, where your meeting will be held next week, many times in the past several years, solely for the opportunity to catch false albacore on the fly rod. They have traveled with family, stayed in the local hotels, gone out to eat at the local restaurants, while family members have shopped in the local stores. If the fish are no longer there, anglers and their families will no longer make those trips, and those economic benefits will be lost forever.

Best regards

Richard Banks  
27 Out of Bounds Drive  
S Yarmouth MA 02664

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Richard Banks  
27 Out of Bounds Drive  
S Yarmouth MA 02664  
508 619 7977

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Richard Steinberger <petard1957@optonline.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 4:14 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Keep "forage" designation for Little Tunny & Atlantic Bonito & others

Dear Ms. Beaty ,

I would like to add my voice to those who are pleading for the MAFMC to continue to extend the protection of *Euthynnus alleteratus*, *Sarda sarda* et. al as managed " forage " species.

As you know, they not only are major prey species for large pelagics, but constitute a huge part of the autumnal northeast sport fishery ( not to mention that of the mid-Atlantic, Gulf, and Floridian east coast ).

Putting them in danger of an unrestricted commercial harvest at a time when "more valuable" target species are in serious trouble only invites further ecosystemic degradation. If they have little hope of being protected as gamefish from commercial rapacity, at the very least they deserve to be shielded as managed forage from being systemically over-harvested.

The nation's cats can get along just fine without false albacore in their " Little Friskies " !

Yours,

Richard E. Steinberger, MD  
268 Shore Drive  
Oakdale, NY 11769-2326  
Tel: 1-631-589-1240

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** r wd <rwoody46@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 1:47 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** DO NOT LIFT PROTECTION OF ALBIES AND BONITO

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not remove false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. As a fisherman and naturalist, I have traveled throughout the world observing predator prey interactions and I have seen false albacore many times. I've watched bonito being eaten by sailfish, marlin and bluefin tuna. Their role may not be at the bottom of the food web, however, they are critical to many other species and removing them from the protection afforded them under this amendment would be a terrible mistake...they are indeed forage.

False albacore and Atlantic bonito are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides depend on these fish each fall to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,

Richard Woodward  
860-462-3190

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Rick Schwartz <jrs4676@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 12:17 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False albacore/little tunnu

Just because a fish does not have high food value for humans does not mean recreational anglers don't place a high value on them. this past fall i made over 15 trips targeting this awesome fighting fish, I don't want to think how much I spent in the pursuit because it was all for fun. every fish was returned to the water in good health. How can you possibly crumble to the commercial interests again to turn this valuable fish into fertilizer ? What you have done with the menhaden must not be repeated.

Rick Schwartz recreational angler Florida and Cape Cod

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Robert Gartside <rmkc@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 9:14 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Cc:** Rob & Meryl Gartside  
**Subject:** Help Protect False Albacore & Bonito

Dear Ms Beaty:

I am writing you regarding the possibility of the removal of False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, and both Frigate and Bullet Mackerel from the list of the unmanaged forage amendment species. The impact of allowing commercial fishing for these species would have a devastating effect on the recreational fishery along the whole East Coast including Montauk and especially in the Cape Cod area where I and numerous others fish. With the well reported decline in the striped bass fishery over the past several years (in no small part a result of commercial fishing), recreational fishing for False Albacore and Atlantic bonito have provided a significant draw for anglers from near and far thus providing major economic benefits for fishing guides and local businesses including restaurants and hotels. The impact of commercial fishing on gamefish and their forage species is well documented. Harvesting these fish for such uses as fish oil represents a travesty for such spectacular and prized gamefish. Please help protect these important forage fish by keeping them under this amendment.

regards

Rob Gartside

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** rmrifchin@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 9:41 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore Impact

Dear Ms. Beaty,

My readers and I are very concerned that various species including false albacore, Atlantic bonito, frigate and bullet mackerel all could be tragically exposed to large scale commercial harvest. I very strongly urge your committee members to better understand the economic impact these species provide to many economies on the east coast. These species provide perhaps the best catch and release fly fishing and light tackle fishery available to us along with the greatly diminished striped bass fishing. Thousands of anglers travel to destinations and spend money on hotels, restaurants, fishing guides, tackle shops, and tourist attractions while in pursuit of these fish. I have traveled to Montauk, where your meeting will be held at least a dozen times in the past 5 years, solely for the opportunity to catch false albacore on the fly rod. I have traveled with my family, stayed in the local hotels, gone out to eat at the local restaurants, while my wife and children have visited the local stores. If the fish are no longer there, anglers and their families will no longer make those trips.

If you allow these species to be exposed to large scale commercial harvest, there will be severe economic impact to many towns from the Northeast all along to the coast to Florida. These are special fish, only available to us at the northern end of their range for a short time each season, and I'm sure would be worth far more as a sport fishery in real dollars than as commercial products ever could be.

Robert Rifchin  
Outdoor Writer, Member of the  
New England Outdoor Writers, Inc.

**Beaty, Julia**

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**From:** Roger Lema <riverrunt12@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 3:25 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia

please keep false Albacore and atlantic bonito as an important gamefish species as they are the only hardtail fish small boat anglers can reach! we depend on them when the bass and blues dwindle in late summer and early fall for action after a full spring and summer of flounder and seabass fishing.no protection for these species from commercial exploitation is in the best interests of anyone on the water.We must preserve what we have left after what has happened to bluefin tuna and white .

**Beaty, Julia**

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**From:** reifron@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 1:20 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Help protect False Albacore, Bonito and other Forage Fish

Dear Ms. Beaty,

It's with great concern that I write you regarding the possibility of removing False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, and both Frigate and Bullet Mackerel from the list of the unmanaged forage amendment species. Not only are these fish important forage for larger predator species, but from a recreational angling prospective, the impact could be profound. False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito are considered prized gamefish from Cape Cod where I reside, to the shores of North Carolina and beyond. Numerous guides, the Travel/ Host industry, and magazine articles would attest to the economic implications that could result from a decline in these amazing fish.

Please help protect these important forage fish by keeping them under this amendment. We cannot afford to have another species reduced to fish oil or fertilizer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ron Reif  
Cape Cod Flyrodders - member

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** blueh20fly@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 11:11 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore and other species, Unmanaged Forage Amendment

Dear Ms. Beaty,

Please, I implore you to listen to the emails and phone calls you are receiving on this issue and allow the False Albacore and other species listed to keep the protection afforded them under the Unmanaged Forage Fish designation.

These species are the few remaining cornerstones in the ecosystems and food chains they inhabit, and a host of apex predators and secondary predators depend on these fish to survive. Everything from Marlin on down the food chain with secondary foraging fish like snappers, cobia will be heavily impacted by these fish being put on the commercial slaughter list.

I have been a fishing guide in south Florida for almost thirty years, and it has become obvious to me that our coastal waters are in great trouble. The large schools of King Mackerel have gone, Mullet, Spanish mackerel, Jack Crevalle and Bluefish are so heavily impacted that I estimate their reduction in the past twenty years to be over seventy-five percent. These species represent the really large schooling fish that have been the mainstay of forage for the areas they pass through on their migrations throughout the year. And now that these species have been decimated, the False Albacore and accompanying species will be the last major food sources that will keep the coastal ecosystems from collapsing completely until other fish stocks recover to the point where they will once again be a viable food source.

Please, keep False Albacore, Frigate and Bullet Mackerel and Atlantic Bonito protected from commercial harvest and over fishing.

Thank you,

Capt. Scott Hamilton  
Hamilton fishing Charters, Inc.  
Palm Beach, Fl.

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Scott Surprise <doublesadv@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 8:39 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Please just leave a great recreational fish/fishes alone

Julia  
With fish species all around us , you and me, collapsing to the point of extinction , why not as a great manger specialist , mangle the resource to a level of great strength instead of opening it to over harvesting and decimation. I'm sure it will be fished extremely aggressively and marketed overseas which will only benefit a few , where if protected will benefit millions.

Thank you for your time

Scott Surprise

In fact we should look at protecting a lot more before more disappear

Sent from my iPad

## **Beaty, Julia**

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**From:** Sean McDermott <flyfishnacl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 10:26 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Unmanaged Forage Amendment

Dear Ms. Beaty,

As a recreational sport fisherman and fly fisherman, I look forward every fall to pursue False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito.

Removing False Albacore, Frigate and Bullet Mackerel, and Atlantic Bonito from the initial list of species under the "Unmanaged Forage Amendment", would greatly impact my sport. These fish need to be protected before they follow the path of other endangered fish in our coastal waters.

Thank you, for your consideration in this matter.

Sean McDermott  
48 Cedar Creek Drive  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
774-203-3739

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** stanmarmgk@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 9:52 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False albacore and bonito

Dear Mrs. Beaty;

False albacore and bonito are very important game fish here on Cape Cod. The fishery also generates a lot of revenue for bait shops, hotels, restaurants. Please DO NOT allow these fish to become commercial with the subsequent demise of this important species.

Very Truly Yours,  
Stanley J. Kaczynski

Sent from my iPad

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Steve Petruska <stevepetruska@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 11:39 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Council's list of Unmanaged Forage

Dear Ms. Beaty,

It's with great concern that I write you regarding the possibility of removing False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, and both Frigate and Bullet Mackerel from the list of the unmanaged forage amendment species. Not only are these fish important forage for larger predator species, but from a recreational angling perspective, the impact could be profound. False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito are considered prized gamefish from Cape Cod where I reside, to the shores of North Carolina and beyond. Numerous guides, the Travel/ Host industry, and magazine articles would attest to the economic implications that could result from a decline in these amazing fish.

Please help protect these important forage fish by keeping them under this amendment. We cannot afford to have another species reduced to fish oil and fertilizer.

Very truly yours,

Stephen Petruska  
E. Dennis, MA

**Beaty, Julia**

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**From:** Steve Unsworth <ccunsworth@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2016 10:47 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia

Dear Ms. Beaty,

It's with great concern that I write you regarding the possibility of removing False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, and both Frigate and Bullet Mackerel from the list of the unmanaged forage amendment species. Not only are these fish important forage for larger predator species, but from a recreational angling prospective, the impact could be profound. False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito are considered prized gamefish from Cape Cod where I reside, to the shores of North Carolina and beyond. Numerous guides, the Travel/ Host industry, and magazine articles would attest to the economic implications that could result from a decline in these amazing fish.

Please help protect these important forage fish by keeping them under this amendment. We cannot afford to have another species reduced to fish oil or fertilizer. Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Unsworth  
Secretary - Cape Cod Flyrodders

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Taylor Hoyt <taylor@lindquiststeels.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 07, 2016 10:27 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Cc:** Contact MAFMC  
**Subject:** A Plea for False Albacore Protection

**Importance:** High

Good Morning,

I am writing this email in response to the upcoming discussion and vote regarding False Albacore as an “Unmanaged Forage Species.”

I’m going to flat out beg the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to do absolutely everything within it’s power to protect this species and manage it for maximum sustainability.

The reasons behind my plea are numerous and deep running. For starters and for full disclosure, I am an avid light tackle catch and release fisherman. The False Albacore are in my opinion the single most exciting fish to target in my home waters of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York.

I’m not alone with my affinity towards this fish. There are countless others just like myself who obsess over catching these magnificent speedy little fish. These fish don’t get large so the anglers, like myself, cannot be classified as “Trophy Hunters” but rather anglers who are purely out there for the enjoyment of the outdoors and the challenge of catching the fish.

Angler’s like myself contribute countless dollars into the economy all in an effort to catch a little fish that we ultimately carefully release back into the water unharmed. To the casual observer this must look like total insanity.

But the fact of the matter is we get a massive amount of satisfaction and joy out the sport of False Albacore fishing. It gets people active, contributing to the overall economy, and out making real memories. My children are old enough now to go out with me and fish. We are making memories and sharing experiences out in nature that will stick with them for the rest of their lives. You don’t make memories like these sitting in front of the TV playing video games.

And while I haven’t done it, yet, I know a number of anglers from my area that head down to North Carolina and then onto Florida to fish for the False Albacore when they move out of the Northeast. The number of anglers fishing for these fish in these states is ten fold compared to the Northeast. They are the same fish and equally important to anglers and the economy down south.

These fish touch the lives of so many. It’s imperative that protect them from a simple angling aspect.

But the False Albacore is also an equally important forage fish.

So much has been made about restoring the Giant Bluefin stocks of the Atlantic. That isn’t going to ever happen without proper oversight but also without food for those magnificent fish.

The False Albacore is a key forage fish for Bluefin Tuna, Billfish, Sharks, and more.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council knows better than anyone the need of a sustainable and perfectly rounded ecosystem in order to maintain control and truly efficiently manage a species and the environment.

The False Albacore is an important aspect to this equation. Without them as a forage fish other species would suffer and the entire ecosystem, which is already seriously stressed, will come crashing down.

It's all of our responsibilities to protect the resources that we have. If there is market for the False Albacore someplace. It can't be worth more than what these fish mean to our sport fishing economy and to the health of our ecosystem. The False Albacore is not known for its table fare here in the States. I've heard rumors that there are some areas of the World where the False Albacore is acceptable. But I strongly believe that this fish is more valuable as sport fishing resource and a forage fish that keeps our larger highly managed species depend on for food.

If we don't manage the entire food chain and resource accurately and responsibly our fisheries stocks will collapse to depths we have yet to see. As I noted before our fisheries stocks are already under intense pressure. By removing just one single additional link to this fragile chain could result in catastrophe.

If anyone has trouble wrapping their head around what I mean, simply look into what is happening in other parts of the World. China and Japan are at the brink of war- over fishing right. Fishing vessels in Thailand are blowing up and sinking rogue fishing fleets from other nations. Chinese trawlers are being chased out of our waters on a constant basis. All of this is result of mismanagement by other nations. The Worlds fisheries are under attack like they never have been before. We are more connected with the rest of the World than we ever have been before. Every move we make has an impact that directly affects the health of the ecosystem the World over.

The False Albacore has an economic value of countless dollars from the sport fishing industry, with the added benefit that it is virtually an entirely catch and release fishery. But also as key component in the food chain and ecosystem as a forage fish.

So once again, I am begging the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to protect the False Albacore.

I really appreciate the councils consideration and hard work. But just as importantly my children and our following generations thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

R. Taylor Hoyt

Taylor Hoyt  
President  
Lindquist Steels, Inc.  
Cell #203-209-6877  
Office #1-800-243-9637  
Fax #1-203-386-0132  
[taylor@lindquiststeels.com](mailto:taylor@lindquiststeels.com)  
[www.lindquiststeels.com](http://www.lindquiststeels.com)

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\*Prices are good for 14 days from receipt of quotation. All material is subject to prior sale.

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Taylor Ingraham <taylor.ingraham@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2016 6:07 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore, Bonito, Mackerel

Dear Julia Beaty,

Please do not removing false albacore, frigate and bullet mackerel, and Atlantic bonito from the initial list of species under the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

These fish are important forage for many larger predator species that depend on them. While they may take on a predator role inshore, attracting anglers from around the country each fall, they are critical to survival of many other species and an important part of maintaining a healthy food chain. They are a forage fish for those predators that keep the balance in order, and not considering them one could be a significant mistake.

As I mentioned, each fall false albacore and Atlantic bonito are draw thousands of anglers from around the country and are incredibly important to the recreational angling community and professional guides who depend on these fish to keep their businesses afloat in the face of the declining striped bass population. We cannot afford to have game fish of this status designated as underutilized species and then open the floodgates to commercial exploitation.

Sincerely,

Taylor Ingraham

Flycaster Charters

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Terry Brykczynski <terryparrot@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 5:15 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** keep the false albacore listed as forage

keep the false albacore listed as forage

thank you

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Tim Lynch <tinylynch@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 8:07 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albies and Forage Fish Designation

Ms Beaty,

Fish such as bonito and false albacore are part of the Cape Cod fall fishery for many recreational anglers. Every vote, every discussion, every committee hearing can have impacts on the long term health of the many fish that frequent our coasts. Please weigh all the science and alternatives as you consider which fish should be or should not be part of the forage fish definition. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely  
Tim Lynch

Sent from my iPhone

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Todd <todd@hylanauto.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 7:23 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Vote effecting fishery  
**Attachments:** image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Dear Ms. Beaty,

I am sending you this email to hopefully influence your vote against possibly exposing False Albacore, Bonito and Spanish Mackerel to commercial fishing. I have included a photo of my son Tyler catching his first False Albacore last fall just out side of our harbor. That one fish has completely turned my little guy into a fishing enthusiast. He understands preservation and proper care and handling of fish. Without the opportunity to fish for these elusive fish he might not have been so captivated by fishing. Please work to help us save these opportunities for other children and adults like Tyler. Since catching that fish we have traveled to 4 different destinations up and down the coast spending money in towns chasing his passion.

Regards,

Todd H. Walantis

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** THoude3320@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 6:39 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore, Frigate and Bullet Mackerel and Atlantic Bonito

Good Morning Julia,

I'm a recreational kayak angler. Please do not remove Albacore, Frigate and Bullet Mackerel and Atlantic Bonito from the Unmanaged Forage Amendment.

Concerned Fisherman,

Tom Houde  
Ocean State Kayak Fishing

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Tyler McPherson <tylerjmcpherson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2016 8:52 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito

Ms Beaty,

I would like to see action taken to have false albacore and atlantic bonito 100% protected from commercial fisheries.

Thank you,

Tyler McPherson

Sent from my iPhone

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Tyler McPherson <TJM@tightlineco.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 07, 2016 10:38 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** False Albacore & Bonito

Good afternoon Julia,

I am writing because it has recently come to my attention that False Albacore and Bonito may be removed from the Unmanaged Forage List. It is my understanding that being on this list affords them protection from the commercial fishery. I would like to see False Albacore remain on the list because the younger and smaller "Albies" and "Bones" that come into my home waters (Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Sound) in the later parts of the summer are an important food source for larger striped bass and bluefish. They are also an increasingly important recreational fish as our striped bass populations continue to be threatened. It is my opinion that False Albacore and Bonito be provided with the utmost protection.

Best regards,

Tyler McPherson  
Tight Line Construction, Inc.

Sent from my iPhone

## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Vincent Foti <vinnyf18@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2016 9:02 AM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Cc:** Bob Lewis; Steve Unsworth; Harry Graff; Vin Foti  
**Subject:** A letter of appeal

Dear Ms. Beaty,

It's with great concern that I write you regarding the possibility of removing False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, and both Frigate and Bullet Mackerel from the list of the unmanaged forage amendment species. Not only are these fish important forage for larger predator species, but from a recreational angling prospective, the impact could be profound. False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito are considered prized gamefish from Cape Cod where I reside, to the shores of North Carolina and beyond. Numerous guides, the Travel/ Host industry, and magazine articles would attest to the economic implications that could result from a decline in these amazing fish.

Please help protect these important forage fish by keeping them under this amendment. We cannot afford to have another species reduced to fish oil or fertilizer. Thank you for your consideration.

Vin Foti  
Cape Cod Flyrodder - BOD

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## Beaty, Julia

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**From:** Walter Koda <walter.koda@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 7:53 PM  
**To:** Beaty, Julia  
**Subject:** Fwd: Unmanaged Forage Amendment

Dear Ms. Beaty,

As a recreational sport fisherman and fly fisherman, I look forward every fall to pursue False Albacore and Atlantic Bonito.

Removing False Albacore, Frigate and Bullet Mackerel, and Atlantic Bonito from the initial list of species under the "Unmanaged Forage Amendment", would greatly impact my sport. By allowing these fish to be harvested and reducing their populations would also reduce recreation saltwater licenses by sportsman like myself. These fish need to be protected before they follow the path of our other endangered fish in the oceans along our coastal waters.

Thank you, for your consideration in this matter.

Walter Koda  
244 Wentworth Road  
Brookfield, NH 03872