

Lines of Communication

Conversations with the Council



Lines of Communication: Conversations with the Council, or simply “Lines,” is a new Council initiative aimed toward building relationships with fisheries stakeholders and providing an opportunity for mutual sharing of information. Unlike other outreach efforts and public comment opportunities, Lines allows attendees to actively discuss their perspectives with local Council members, Council staff, and other fishery participants.

Lines meetings will be held in-person throughout the South Atlantic, meeting fishermen in their communities. By engaging in a more informal setting, Council members aim to build and strengthen relationships with fishery stakeholders, ultimately increasing engagement in the management process. The Council understands that building relationships and momentum for participation in the management process requires consistent effort over time, so Lines is now a regular part of the Council’s yearly activities.

Goals and Objectives

- Provide an opportunity for an **open dialogue** and **mutual learning** between Council members and stakeholders.
- **Increase knowledge** of the fisheries management process to encourage stakeholder engagement in Council initiatives.
- Provide a mechanism for stakeholders to bring **concerns and observations** directly to Council members.
- Allow Council members to **share information** on notable management issues with stakeholders.

How can law enforcement assist with Lines?

Similar to other Council events, law enforcement officers are likely to be requested at Lines meetings.

Law enforcement in attendance should feel free to engage with attendees. Stakeholders often have questions about how fisheries regulations are enforced and having law enforcement professionals available to share their knowledge will only help to achieve the goals and objectives of Lines.



Where and When?

The Council will hold Lines of Communication meetings twice a year in two different states. **The next four sessions will be held in North Carolina February 2nd through 5th.**

Winter 2026/2027 meetings in South Carolina and Florida are currently being planned, so stay tuned!

How is Lines different from public comment opportunities?

Public comment, while a valuable part of the fisheries management process, does not allow for two-way conversations between Council members and fisheries stakeholders. Additionally, public comment sessions focus on specific actions on the Council’s agenda, not allowing time for stakeholders to discuss other concerns. Lines will provide a platform for attendees to voice concerns pertinent to what they are seeing on the water. The meetings will also provide stakeholders an opportunity to learn more about the federal fisheries management process and current events.

More information on Lines of Communication, including specific dates and locations for the upcoming North Carolina series can be found on the Council’s webpage or by scanning the provided QR Code.

