



Shellfish Lease Public Hearing

NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

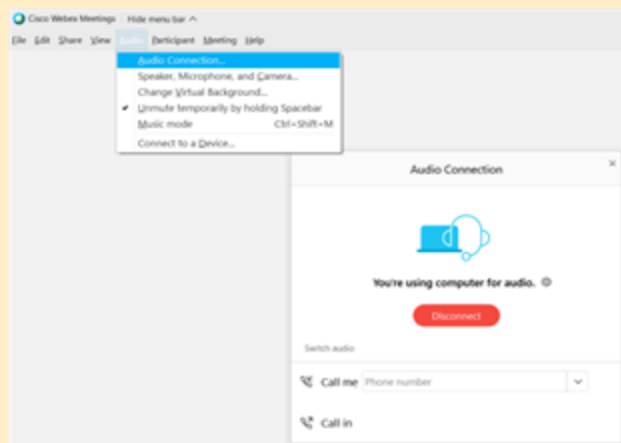
NC Division of Marine Fisheries

Carteret County | March 31, 2026



Troubleshooting

If you are having trouble hearing the meeting, try having the computer call your phone. Click on the audio tab at the top of the screen. In the dropdown box, click on Audio Connection, and type in your telephone number in the Call Me field.



Written comments will be accepted up to 24 hours following this hearing and may be submitted by mail or online at:

NC Division of Marine Fisheries
Shellfish Lease and Aquaculture Program
PO Box 769
Morehead City, NC 28557

deq.nc.gov/carteret-county-shellfish-lease-hearing-comment-form

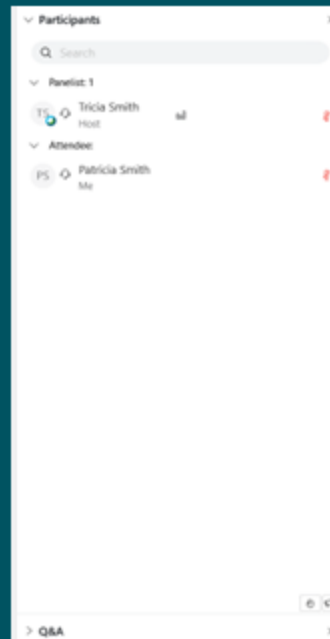


N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Public Hearing on Proposed Shellfish Leases in Carteret County March 31, 2026, 6 p.m.

We will take attendance at the beginning of the meeting and ask if you would like to speak. Later in the meeting, we will call the names of those who indicated they would like to speak. After we complete the list, we will ask anyone else who wants to speak to raise their hands.

Raise your hand by clicking on the hand icon at the bottom of the Participants panel.

To bring up the Participants panel, hover your cursor over the bottom of the page and click on the circular icon with a drawing of a person in it.





Shellfish Leasing Process

Role of Public Hearing and Public Comment



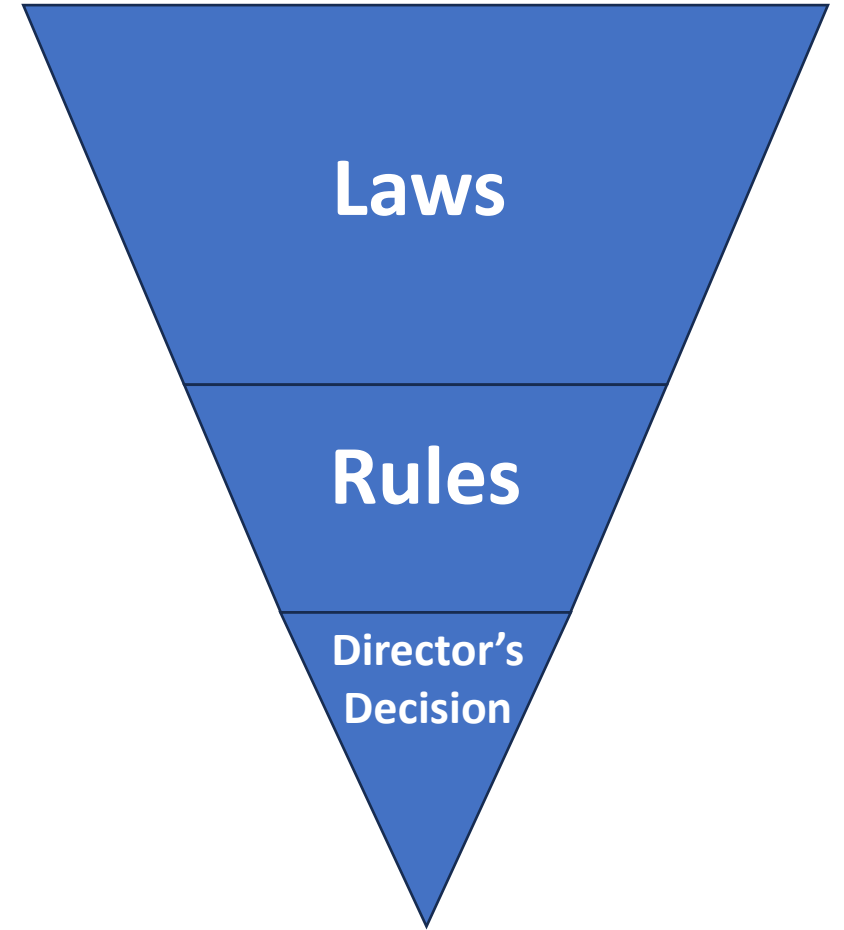
Shellfish Leases Basics

- Public Trust Waters Leased for Shellfish Aquaculture
 - Artificially Propagated Stocks
 - Reared in “Controlled Environment”
 - Leases give private rights to shellfish in an area
 - Water is still navigable at your own risk

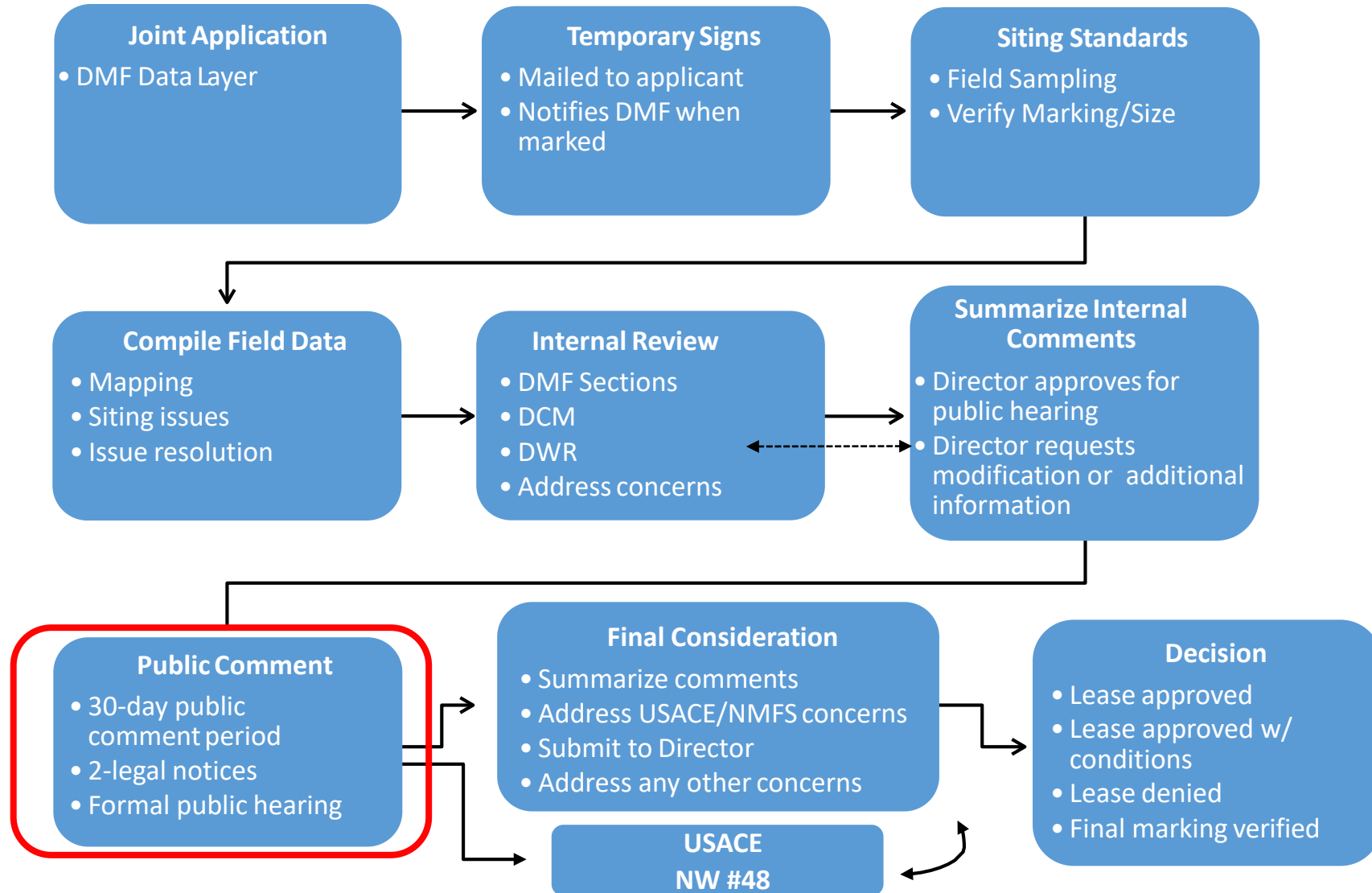


Shellfish Leases are Governed by Law

- Shellfish Leases in General Statutes
 - NCGS Chapter 113 Article 16
 - Changes to Shellfish Leases
 - 26 Session Laws Since 1997 (FRA)
 - 48 Total Changes to General Statutes



Shellfish Lease Application Process



Shellfish Lease Investigation

- Marking Poles and Acreage
- Biological (SAV/Natural Shellfish)
- Navigation and Depth

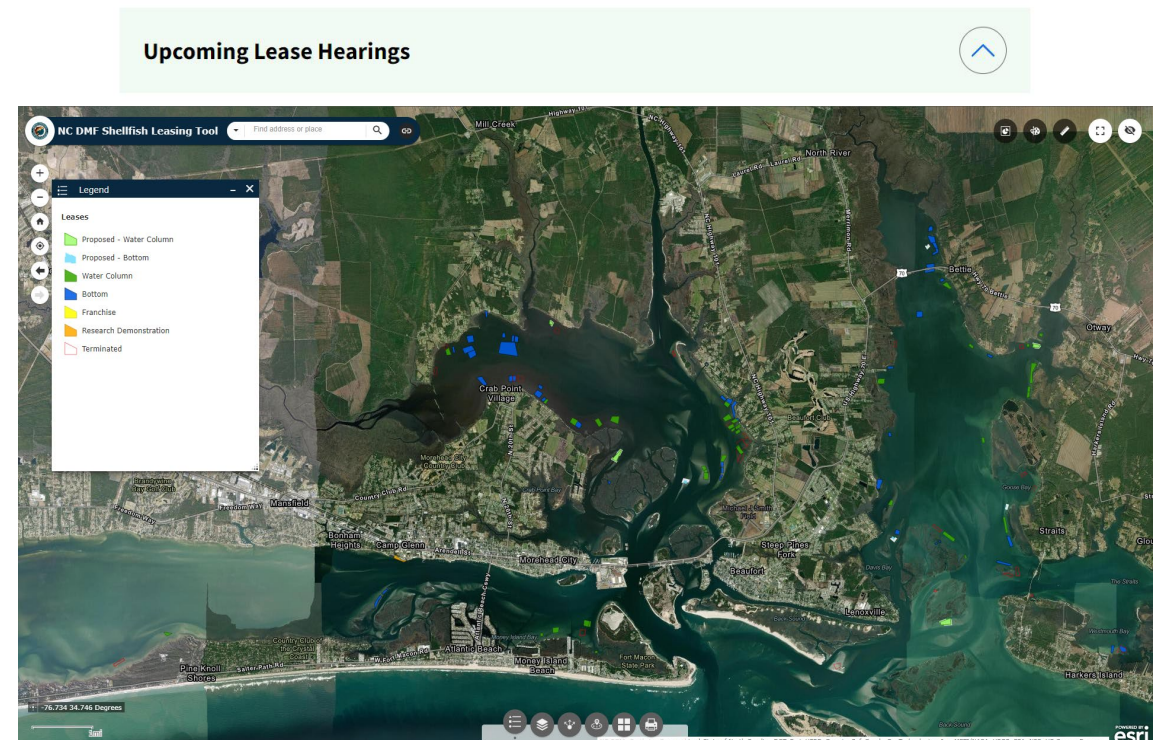


Public Comment

- Evaluate Compatibility
 - Determine Effects on Public Trust Usage
 - Direct Impacts
 - Not a Vote
- Public Comment Collected
 - Comments at Public Hearing
 - Online and Letters During PC Period
- Additional Outreach
 - Shellfish Lease Website
 - Shellfish Leasing Tool
 - Press Release
 - Proclamations Mailing/Email List
 - Social Media Posts

Shellfish Lease Hearings

The public hearing/public comment process is a requirement for all proposed shellfish leases in North Carolina. The Upcoming Lease Hearings accordion lists scheduled hearings and includes links to information about proposed shellfish leases. The Previous Lease Hearings accordion contains the hearing minutes and comments received during the public comment period.



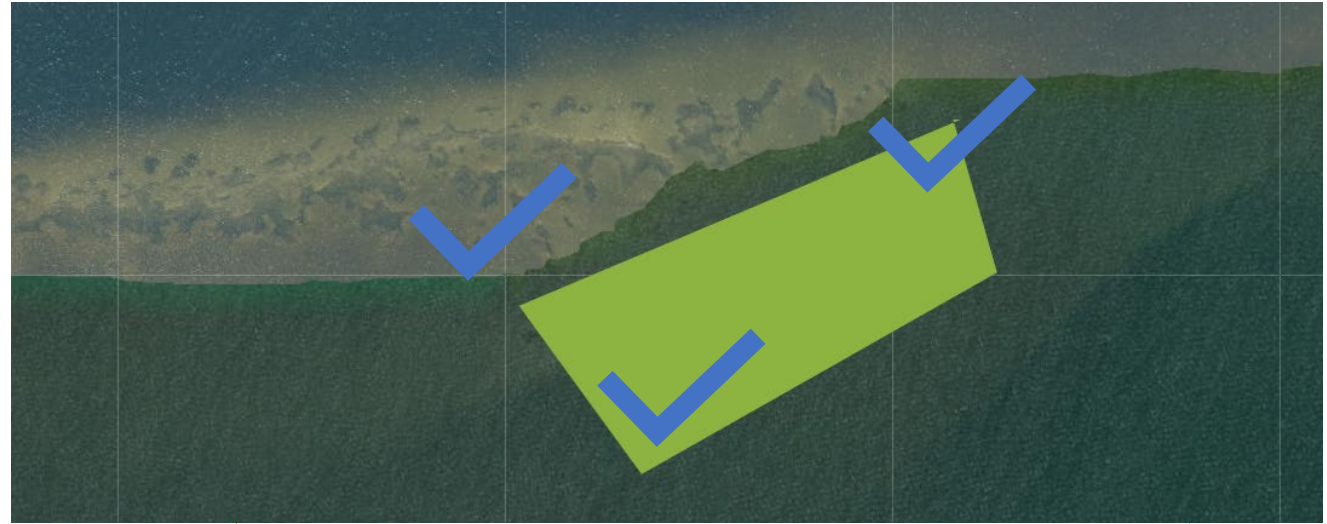
Director's Decision

- Compatibility with Public Trust Usage
 - Navigation
 - Commercial Fishing
 - Recreational Fishing
 - Other Recreation
- Director's Decision
 - Approve
 - Approve with Conditions
 - Deny



How to Make Public Comments

- Specific Uses of that Location
- Not General Waterbody Comments





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Proposed Shellfish Lease

This hearing covers the following proposed shellfish lease application in Carteret County:



25-005BL / 25-006WC

Shellfish Bottom and Water Column

4.46 acres

West Thorofare Bay

Applicant: William K. Harris



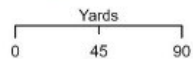
Proposed Lease ID/Number: 25-005BL/25-006WC
 William Kerry Harris

Date: 9/19/2025



Acreage: 4.46

▲ Proposed Corner Points
 ■ Proposed Lease Area



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane North Carolina FIPS 3200 Ft US



Contact Us

Shellfish Lease and Aquaculture Program

deq.nc.gov/shellfish-lease

Phone

(252) 515-5600

Email

SLAP@deq.nc.gov

Book a Meeting

Get clear answers and next steps for your lease, permit, or aquaculture needs.



Scan or go to:
is.gd/m6i9j0



NC Division of Marine Fisheries Shellfish Leasing Tool

arcg.is/0LD5zS