Participating via Webex

- Remain muted until the hearing officer calls on you.
- Use Raise hand in the app or browser.
- Telephone-only participants: press *3 to raise your hand.
- Wait for the host to enable your microphone.
- If disconnected, rejoin using the same link.

webex by CISCO



NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES

Pamlico County | Thu, Nov 5 2026

Shellfish Lease Hearing





Shellfish Leasing Process

Role of Public Hearing & Public Comment

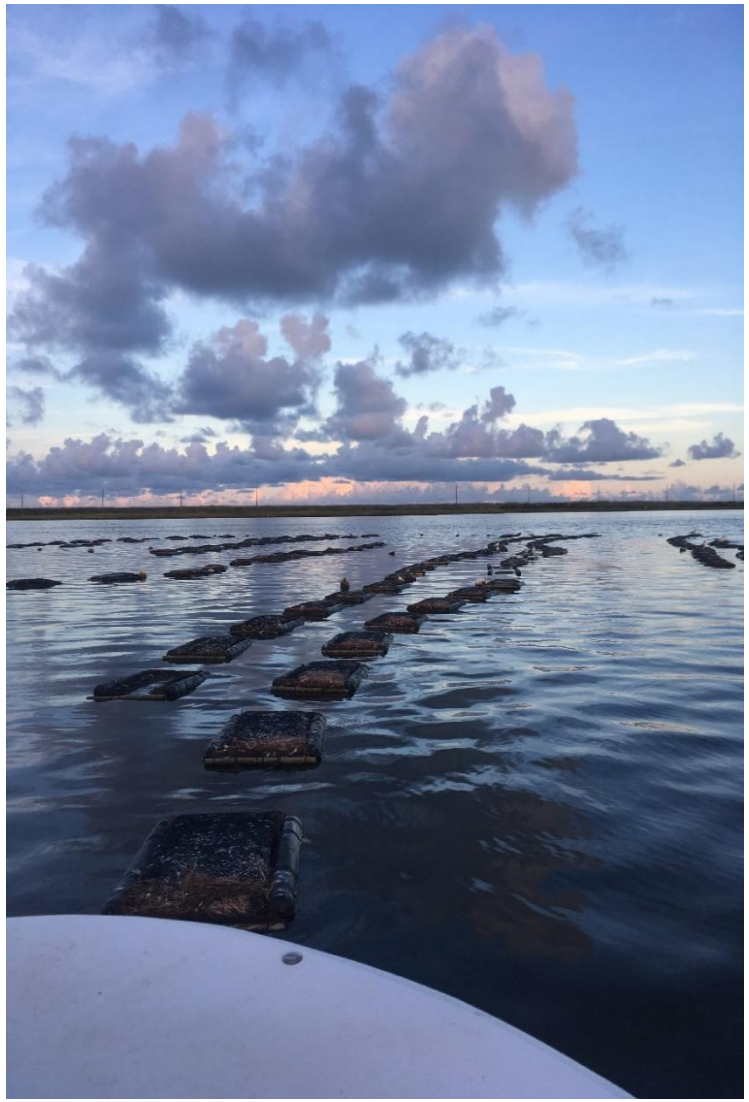


Shellfish Leases Basics

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

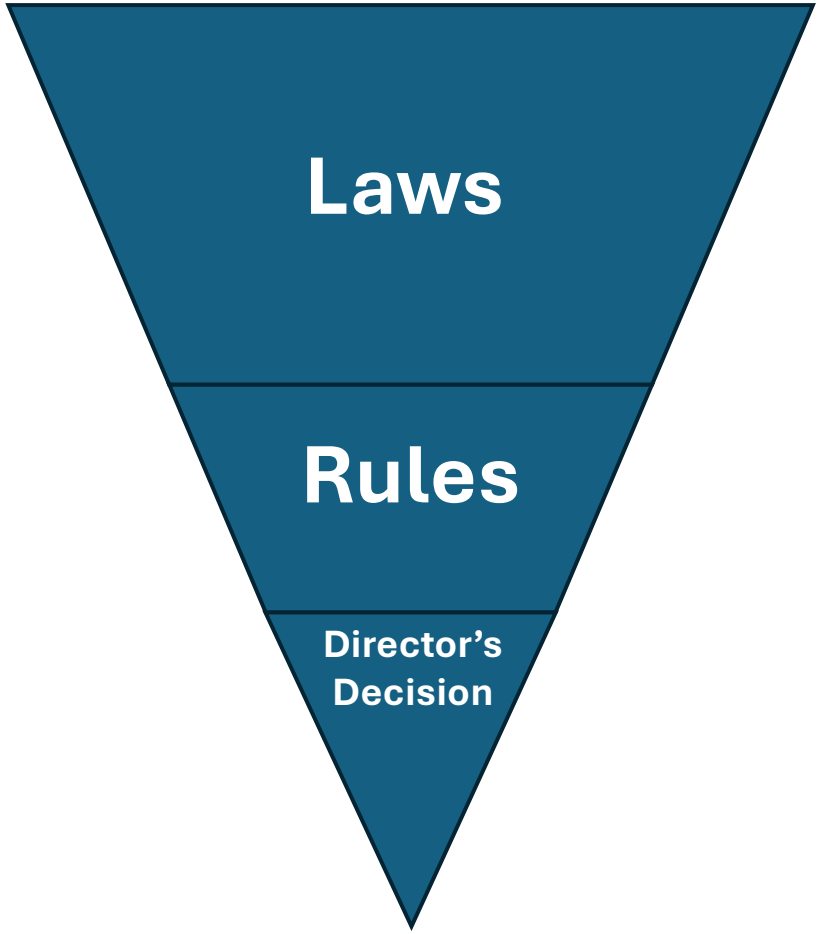




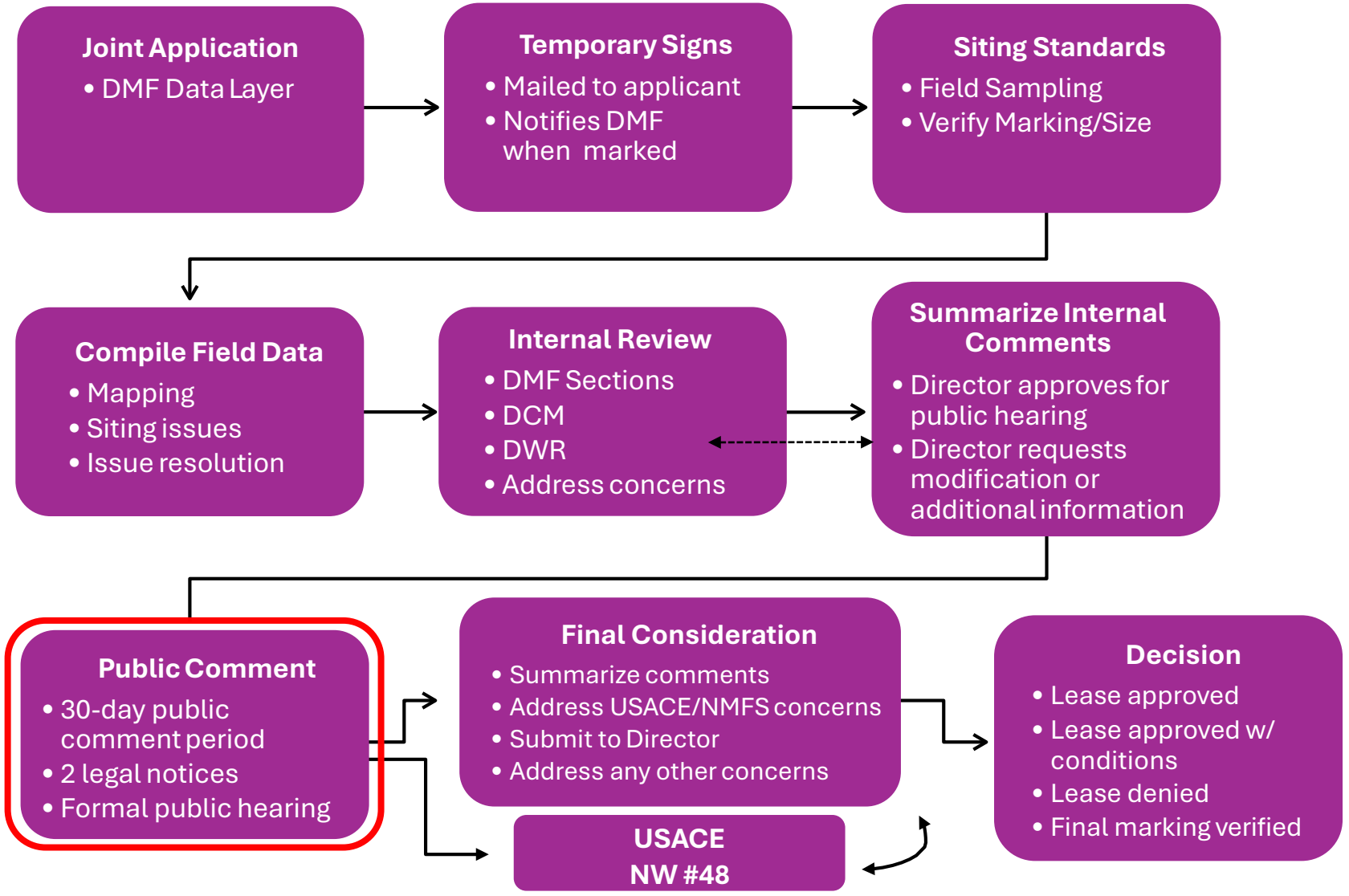
Shellfish Leases are Governed by Law

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



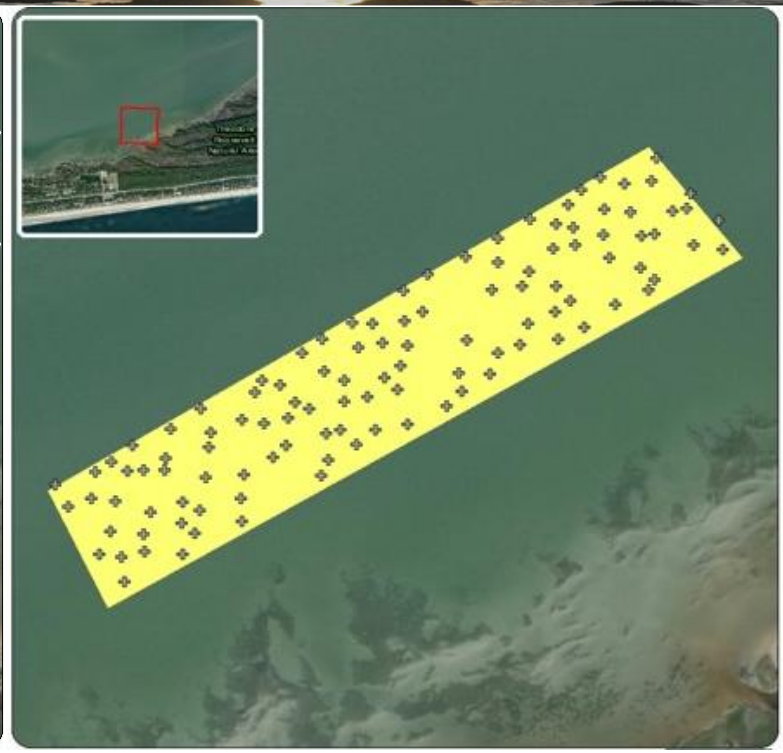
Shellfish Lease Application Process



Shellfish Lease Investigation

- Marking poles and acreage
- Biological (SAV/natural shellfish)
- Navigation and depth









Public Comment

Evaluate Compatibility

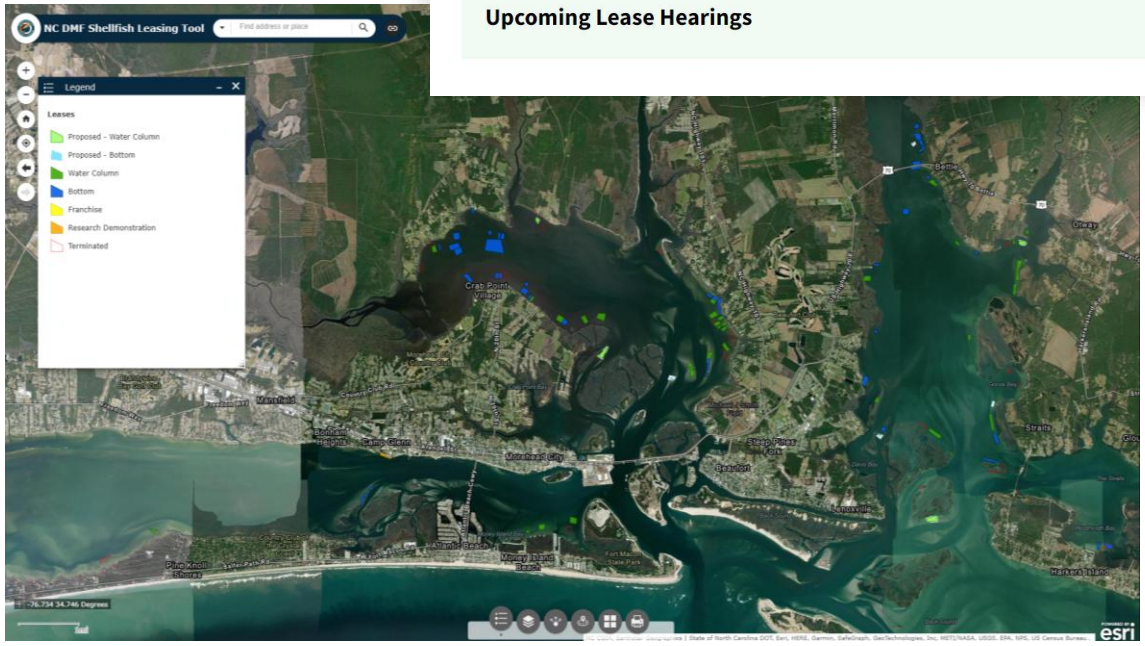
- Determine Effects on Public Trust Usage
- Direct Impacts
- Not a Vote

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.

Upcoming Lease Hearings

Director’s Decision

Compatibility with Public Trust Usage

- Navigation
- Commercial Fishing
- Recreational Fishing
- Other Recreation

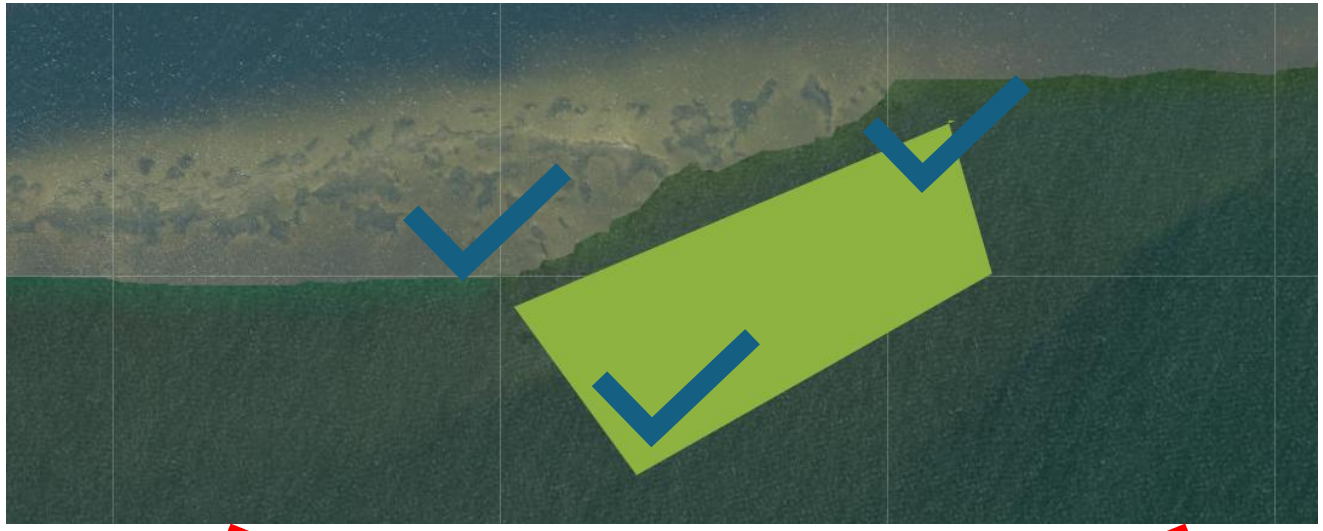
Director’s Decision

- Approve
- Approve with Conditions
- Deny



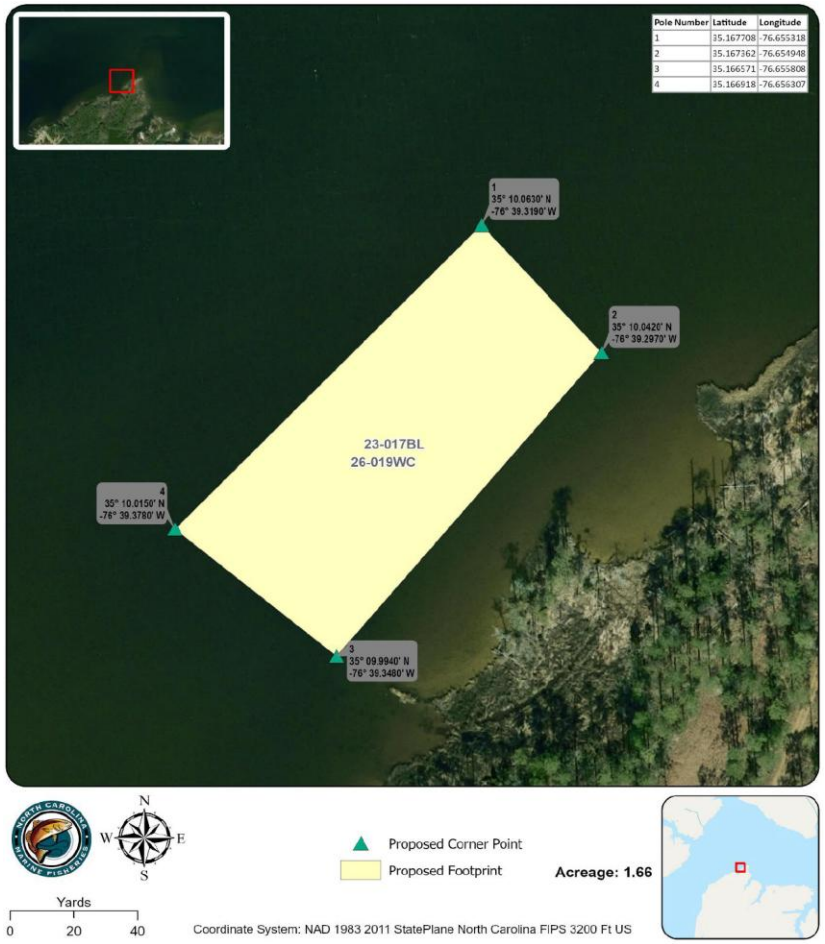
How to Make Public Comments

- Specific uses of that location
- Not general waterbody comments





Proposed Water Column Lease



26-019WC

- Adam T. Brinson
- 1.66 acres
- Bay River
- Water-column amendment over existing bottom lease 23-017BL
- Diploid and triploid oysters
- Bottom cages, floating bags, anchors; hand harvest

Contact Us

Shellfish Lease & Aquaculture Program

deq.nc.gov/shellfish-lease

Phone
(252) 515-5600

Email
SLAP@deq.nc.gov

Book a Meeting with Program Staff

Scan or go to:
is.gd/m6i9j0

NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Environmental Quality
Marine Fisheries

Sworn written comments may be submitted through the hearing comment form or by mail for up to 24 hours after this hearing concludes.
deq.nc.gov/pamlico-county-shellfish-lease-hearing-comment-form