

NC Marine Fisheries Commission

Preliminary Matters

August 2026 Quarterly Business Meeting

Documents

Meeting Agenda

Draft May 2026 Meeting Minutes

Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting

AGENDA

Doubletree by Hilton Raleigh Midtown; Raleigh, NC

August 19-20, 2026

N.C.G.S. 138A-15(e) mandates at the beginning of any meeting of a board, the chair shall remind all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest under Chapter 138. The chair also shall inquire as to whether there is any known conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the board at that time.

N.C.G.S. 143B-289.54.(g)(2) states a member of the Marine Fisheries Commission shall not vote on any issue before the Commission that would have a "significant and predictable effect" on the member's financial interest. For purposes of this subdivision, "significant and predictable effect" means there is or may be a close causal link between the decision of the Commission and an expected disproportionate financial benefit to the member that is shared only by a minority of persons within the same industry sector or gear group. A member of the Commission shall also abstain from voting on any petition submitted by an advocacy group of which the member is an officer or sits as a member of the advocacy group's board of directors. A member of the Commission shall not use the member's official position as a member of the Commission to secure any special privilege or exemption of substantial value for any person. No member of the Commission shall, by the member's conduct, create an appearance that any person could improperly influence the member in the performance of the member's official duties.

Commissioners having questions about a conflict of interest or appearance of conflict should consult with counsel to the Marine Fisheries Commission or the secretary's ethics liaison. Upon discovering a conflict, the commissioner should inform the chair of the commission in accordance with N.C.G.S. 138A-15(e).

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

- 1:00 p.m. Preliminary Matters
- Swearing in of New Commissioners
 - Commission Call to Order* – *Sammy Corbett, Chairman*
 - Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
 - Review Ethics Evaluations of New Commissioners
 - Conflict of Interest Reminder
 - Roll Call
 - **Approval of Meeting Minutes ****
- 1:15 p.m. Chairman's Report
- Letters and Online Comments
 - Ethics Training and Statement of Economic Interest Reminder
 - 2027 Proposed Meeting Schedule
 - **Elect Vice Chair ****
- 1:30 p.m. Director's Report – *Interim Director Michael Loeffler*
- Red Snapper EFP Update – *Trish Murphey*
- 2:00 p.m. Fishery Management Plan Updates – *Dan Zapf, Jeff Dobbs*
- Implementation of Adopted FMPs
 - Upcoming FMPs
- 2:15 p.m. FMP Annual Review – *Charlton Godwin, Jeff Dobbs*

** Times indicated are merely for guidance. The commission will proceed through the agenda until completed.*

***Probable Action Items*

Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting Agenda

- 3:15 p.m. Review of Kingfishes Stock Complex Data – *Matthew Doster, Claire Pelletier*
- 3:45 p.m. Break
- 6:00 p.m. Return for Evening Public Comment Period

Thursday, August 20, 2026

- 9:00 a.m. Public Comment Period
- 9:30 a.m. Division of Water Resources – Water Quality & the Connection to Division of Marine Fisheries– *DEQ-DWR Deputy Directors Michael Pjetraj, Julie Grzyb*
- 10:30 a.m. Coastal Habitat Protection Plan 2026 Amendment – *Charlie Deaton, Derek Detweiler, Michelle Brodeur*
- **Vote to send draft plan out for public and advisory committee review ****
- 11:30 a.m. Standard Commercial Fishing License (SCFL) Eligibility Report – *Capt. Garland Yopp*
- **Vote on setting the number of licenses in the SCFL Eligibility Pool for the 2026-2027 License Year ****
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break
- 1:30 p.m. **Rule suspensions **** – *Jason Rock*
- 1:45 p.m. Rulemaking – *Catherine Blum*
- 2024-2025 Rulemaking Cycle Update
 - 2025-2026 Rulemaking Cycle Update
 - 2026-2027 Rulemaking Cycle Update
 - Periodic Review and Expiration of Existing Rules
 - **Vote to approve final determination of rules:**
 - **15A NCAC 03Q .0100;**
 - **All other rules in 15A NCAC 03;**
 - **15A NCAC 10C .0100; and,**
 - **15A NCAC 18A .0100, .0300-.0900, and .3400.**
- 2:00 p.m. Issues from Commissioners
- 2:30 p.m. Meeting Assignments and Preview of Agenda Items for Next Meeting – *Barbie Byrd*
- 2:45 p.m. Adjourn

** Times indicated are merely for guidance. The commission will proceed through the agenda until completed.*

***Probable Action Items*

Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

DoubleTree

New Bern, North Carolina

May 13-14, 2026

The Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) held a business meeting May 13-14, 2026, at the DoubleTree in New Bern, North Carolina. In addition to the public comment sessions, members of the public submitted public comment online or via U.S. mail. The written comments, briefing materials, presentations, and full audio from this meeting are available [here](#).

Actions and motions from the business meeting are listed in **bold** type.

BUSINESS MEETING

May 13, 2026

Preliminary Matters

Chairman Corbett called the May 2026 business meeting to order.

Chairman Corbett began the meeting with a moment of silence, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Next, Chairman Corbett reminded all commissioners of N.C. General Statute § 138A-15(e), which mandates at the beginning of any meeting of a board, the Chair shall remind all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest under Chapter 138. The Chair also shall inquire as to whether there is any known conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the board at that time. There were no stated conflicts of interest from any commissioner.

The following MFC members were in attendance: Mike Blanton, Willie Closs, Sarah Gardner, Alfred Hobgood, John Mallette, Doug Rader, Tom Roller, William Service, and Sammy Corbett – Chairman.

Chairman Corbett asked for any corrections, additions or deletions that need to be made to the February 2026 MFC Quarterly Business Meeting minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Rader to approve the February 2026 business meeting minutes.

Second by Commissioner Hobgood.

Motion passed unanimously.

[View the video recording of the Preliminary Matters.](#)

Chairman's Report

Letters and Online Comments

Chairman Corbett referred commissioners to letters and comments provided in the briefing materials.

Ethics Training and Statement of Economic Interest Reminder

Chairman Corbett reminded commissioners to work with Barbie Byrd to stay up to date on their ethics training and Statement of Economic Interest.

Committee Reports

Chairman Corbett referred commissioners to the committee reports provided in the briefing materials.

[View the video recording of the Chairman's Report.](#)

Red Snapper EFP Update

DMF Assistant to the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (SAFMC) Trish Murphey gave an update on the North Carolina Red Snapper Exempted Fishing Permit.

After the presentation, Chairman Corbett opened the floor to commissioners for comments and questions.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

Marine Patrol Update

Marine Patrol Colonel Christopher Lee gave a presentation providing updates on recent Marine Patrol activity, including recent staff changes and position vacancies.

After the presentation, Chairman Corbett opened the floor to commissioners for comments and questions.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

Incidental Take Permit Update

DMF Fisheries Science Section Chief Jason Rock gave an update on the Incidental Take Permit.

After the presentation, Chairman Corbett opened the floor to commissioners for comments and questions.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

Director's Report

Director Rawls began her report by recognizing Jesse Bissette and Brandi Salmon who received the DEQ Distinguished Employee Award for their outreach efforts. Director Rawls provided a Mandatory Harvest Reporting update, an RFP is being issued for the development of a reporting application. The Director noted that a North Carolina Senate bill has been proposed that will extend the current shellfish moratorium through 2031. Additionally, DMF is part of a legislative workgroup to discuss fisheries regulations, bringing together representatives from a variety of stakeholder groups. Two meetings have been held to date, with discussions focused on the Fisheries Reform Act, rebuilding schedules, the public review process, and habitat-related concerns. The next meeting is expected to occur in June, and the group anticipates reviewing the N.C. Collaboratory study. Director Rawls concluded with organizational updates, including plans to appoint another Deputy Director.

[View the video recording of the Director's Report.](#)

Legislative Study of Coastal and Marine Fisheries Report

UNC Biologist Joel Fodrie gave a presentation on the legislative study of coastal and marine fisheries and the report produced by the N.C. Collaboratory.

After the presentation, Chairman Sammy Corbett opened the floor to commissioners for comments and questions.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

Kingfishes FMP Amendment 1

DMF biologists Matt Doster and Clair Pelletier gave a presentation on the background, life history, and fishery characterization of Kingfishes in North Carolina.

After the presentation, Chairman Corbett opened the floor to commissioners for comments and questions.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

Fishery Management Plan Updates

DMF Biologists Dan Zapf and Jeff Dobbs gave a presentation providing updates on activity related to the recently reviewed and upcoming Fishery Management Plans, including Red Drum and Southern Flounder.

After the presentation, Chairman Corbett opened the floor to commissioners for comments and questions.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

Public Comment Period

Chairman Sammy Corbett held a public comment session that began at 6:00 p.m. The following members of the public provided comment to the commission: Stuart Creighton, Donald Willis, Tim Hergenrader, Martin Degraw. With no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Corbett ended the public comment period at 6:11 p.m.

[View the video recording of the May 13, 2026, 6:00 p.m. public comment session.](#)

May 14, 2025

Public Comment Period

Chairman Sammy Corbett held a public comment session that began at 9:00 a.m. The following members of the public provided comment to the commission: Tara Foreman. With no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Corbett ended the public comment period at 9:04 a.m.

[View the video recording of the May 14, 2026, 9:00 a.m. public comment session.](#)

Rulemaking

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Rulemaking Coordinator Catherine Blum provided updates on the 2024-2025 rulemaking cycle, 2025-2026 rulemaking cycle, and 2026-2027 rulemaking cycle.

After the presentation, Chairman Corbett opened the floor to commissioners for comments and questions.

Motion by Commissioner Roller to approve Notice of Text for Rulemaking for adoption of 15A NCAC 03M .0524 for Atlantic Bonito Management.

Second by Commissioner Hobgood.

ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Blanton	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Closs	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gardner	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Hobgood	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mallette	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Rader	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Roller	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Service	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Corbett	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

Motion passes 5-2, with 2 abstentions.

[View the video recording of the presentation, motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

2025 Spotted Seatrout Cold Stun Update

DMF Biologist Lucas Pensinger gave a presentation on the 2025 Spotted Seatrout cold stun event.

After the presentation, Chairman Sammy Corbett opened the floor to commissioners for comments and questions.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

Blue Crab Stock Assessment Process

DMF stock assessment biologists Matt Damiano and Matt Zink gave a verbal presentation on the updates to the Blue Crab stock assessment process.

After the presentation, Chairman Corbett opened the floor to commissioners for comments and questions.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

Red Drum Satellite Tagging Project

DMF biologists Cara Kowalchyk and John Mohan gave a presentation on the satellite tagging in Red Drum in North Carolina.

After the presentation, Chairman Corbett opened the floor to commissioners for comments and questions.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

Deepwater Oyster Recovery Areas

DMF Biologists Bennett Paradis, McLean Seward, and Zach Harrison gave a presentation on the Deepwater Oyster Recovery Areas in the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5.

After the presentation, Chairman Corbett opened the floor to commissioners for comments and questions.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

Issues from Commissioners

Chairman Corbett opened the floor to commissioners for comments, questions, and other discussion.

[View the video recording of the Issues from Commissioners.](#)

Meeting Assignments and Preview of Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Barbie Byrd reviewed meeting assignments and provided an overview of the August 2026 meeting items.

Having no further business to conduct, Chairman Corbett adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.