

# Committee Reports







ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

MICHAEL S. REGAN  
*Secretary*

STEPHEN W. MURPHEY  
*Director*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission

FROM: Nancy Fish  
Division of Marine Fisheries

DATE: Jan. 31, 2018

SUBJECT: Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Requirements Committee Meeting

The Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Requirements Committee met at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018 at the Division of Marine Fisheries' Central District Office, 5285 Highway 70 West, Morehead City, NC 28557. The following attended:

Committee Members: Sammy Corbett – Chairman, Chuck Laughridge, and Mike Wicker

Staff: Steve Murphey, Dee Lupton, Nancy Fish, C.J. Alley, Col. Dean Nelson, Major Jason Walker, Kathy Rawls, Stephanie McInerny, Brenda Clark, Kevin Brown, Patricia Smith

Public: David Bush, Skip Conklin, David Sneed, Jan Willis, Bert Billings, Trish Murphey, Bradley Brown, Ken Seigler, Pam Morris, Adam Tyler

Media: Maureen Donald, Mike Shutak, Elizabeth Tew, Dillon Ray

Sammy Corbett, serving as chair, called the meeting to order, reminded commissioners of their duty to avoid any conflicts of interest and asked Nancy Fish to do the roll call.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion by Mike Wicker to approve the agenda. Second by Chuck Laughridge.**

**Motion passes unanimously.**

### **SCOPE AND PURPOSE**

Chairman Corbett explained that at its November 2017, the commission passed a motion by Chuck Laughridge to ask the chairman to appoint a committee of commission members to develop a definition of a commercial fisherman, with staff support from the Division of Marine Fisheries, to bring an update back to the commission at its February 2018 meeting.

He said a similar initiative was undertaken in 2016 at the request of Representatives Bell and Dixon, but he was advised legislators felt those recommendations were too vague. Chairman Corbett explained he had been contacted by legislators again recently, asking for more detailed

recommendations from the commission. Chairman Corbett reminded the committee that changes to the license structure would have to be done by the General Assembly.

Chairman Corbett said he had initially said he would let any commissioner that was interested serve on this committee, but the commission's legal counsel advised the committee should have no more than three members and suggested that the vice-chair and scientist serve of the panel.

He said the meeting is just to discuss the criteria or eligibility requirements to hold a Standard Commercial Fishing License and that the committee was not going to discuss other topics. He also advised the committee was just going to make recommendations to present to the full Marine Fisheries Commission for consideration at its Feb. 14-15 business meeting in Wrightsville Beach.

### **DISCUSSION OF STANDARD COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE CRITERIA, ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS**

Mike Wicker discussed the need for improved data collection and Chairman Corbett reminded him the meeting was just to discuss eligibility requirements for the Standard Commercial Fishing License and that issues like data collection could be discussed at the upcoming commission meeting.

Wicker said he'd like the Standard Commercial Fishing License to be for people to catch fish to sell and wanted to eliminate the license being used by someone to simply fill their freezer or to give fish to their friends.

Chairman Corbett reminded the committee that the Division of Marine Fisheries has previously stated that the division does not have the statutory authority to require Standard Commercial Fishing License holders to document fish they are not selling.

Chuck Laughridge said better defining a commercial fisherman had been an issue for years and it was needed to have a better handle on the number of participants that are taking a public trust resource.

#### **Chuck Laughridge made a motion for the following requirements for holding a Standard Commercial Fishing License:**

- 1. Must have 50 percent of earned income from the Trip Ticket Program as in the Fisheries Reform Act of 1997. There is already a statutory precedent for a commercial fisherman in the Fisheries Reform Act;**
- 2. A fisherman must have three dozen of 36 trip tickets per year;**
- 3. To address crew issues for folks who do not have trip tickets, but are bona fide commercial fishermen as crew or any commercial fishing interest in North Carolina or outside the state, proof of income from a commercial fishing operation, business, etc. doing business in North Carolina (crew) of \$10,000 or more per year.**

**(The commission can decide if items 1, 2 and 3 are stand alone or a combination thereof)**

- 4. Inactive Standard Commercial Fishing Licenses that do not have any of the above with a three-year running average, would go back into a special pool and these licenses may be reissued to the original holder subject to commitment to 1, 2 and/or 3 above without going through the Eligibility Pool.**
- 5. Create a Heritage Standard Commercial Fishing License that families may want to maintain that are inactive that may be maintained for \$100 per year and may be reissued one time to a family member without going through the Eligibility Pool or any of the 1,2 and 3 requirements listed above. If reissue is not wanted, a one-time fee of \$100 will retire that license number.**

**Seconded by Mike Wicker.**

**Motion passed 2-0.**

Chairman Corbett said nothing in the motion is etched in stone and these recommendations will serve as a starting point for discussions at the upcoming commission meeting being held Feb. 14-15 in Wrightsville Beach.

Meeting adjourned.





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Release: Immediate  
Date: Jan. 12, 2018

Contact: Patricia Smith  
Phone: 252-726-7021

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**Marine Fisheries Commission accepting public comment on proposed changes to commercial fishing license**

**MOREHEAD CITY** – The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission is accepting public comment on five recommended changes to the commercial fishing license structure it plans to further discuss at its February meeting.

“Nothing here is etched in stone,” said commission Chairman Sammy Corbett.

A committee made up of three commission members voted yesterday to recommend the full commission begin deliberations with the following proposed requirements for holding a Standard Commercial Fishing License:

1. Must have 50 percent of earned income from the Trip Ticket Program as in the Fisheries Reform Act of 1997. There is already a statutory precedent for a commercial fisherman in the Fisheries Reform Act.
2. A fisherman must have 36 trip tickets per year.
3. To address crew issues for those who do not have trip tickets, but are bona fide commercial fishermen as crew or any commercial fishing interest in North Carolina or outside the state, proof of income of \$10,000 or more per year. The proof of income should come from a commercial fishing operation, business, etc. doing business in North Carolina.

(The commission can decide if items 1, 2 and 3 are stand alone or a combination thereof.)

4. Inactive Standard Commercial Fishing Licenses that do not have any of the above with a three-year running average, would go back into a special pool and these licenses may be reissued to the original holder subject to commitment to 1, 2 and/or 3 above without going through the Eligibility Pool.
5. Create a Heritage Standard Commercial Fishing License that families may want to maintain that are inactive. The license may be maintained for \$100 per year and may be reissued one time to a family member without going through the Eligibility Pool or any of the 1, 2 and 3 requirements listed above. If the reissuance of the license is not wanted, a one-time fee of \$100 will retire that license number.

The proposals would require legislative approval.

Members of the public wishing to comment on the proposals may do so during the regular comment period at the Feb. 14-15 commission meeting at the Blockade Runner Beach Resort, 275 Waynick Blvd., Wrightsville Beach. The public comment period will begin at 6 p.m. Feb. 14.

The public may also comment in writing after 8 p.m. today to [CommercialLicensesComments@ncdenr.gov](mailto:CommercialLicensesComments@ncdenr.gov) or to:

Commercial Licenses Comments  
N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries  
Marine Fisheries Commission Office  
P.O. Box 769  
Morehead City, N.C. 28557

Written comments must be received by Feb. 9.

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INFORMATION  
WILL BE  
PROVIDED AT  
THE MEETING.





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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission  
Southern Flounder FMP Advisory Committee

FROM: Michael Loeffler, Co-lead Southern Flounder Plan Development Team  
Anne Markwith, Co-lead Southern Flounder Plan Development Team

DATE: January 24, 2018

SUBJECT: Southern Flounder FMP Advisory Committee Meeting

The Southern Flounder FMP Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 6 p.m. at the NCDEQ Washington Regional Office located at 943 Washington Square Mall in Washington, NC. The following attended:

Advisers: Fred Scharf (chairman), Kurt Tressler, Michael Oppegaard, Tom Roller, Keneth Johnson, Robert Lee Cox, Mary Ellon Ballance, John Tyer, Joe Romano, James Williams.

Staff: Catherine Blum, Nancy Fish, Laura Lee, Amy Flowers, Carter Witten, Anne Markwith, Michael Loeffler, CJ Alley, Jennifer Lewis.

Public: Todd Balance, Greg Judy

Fred Scharf, serving as chair, called the meeting to order at 6:07.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/PUBLIC COMMENT/INTRODUCTIONS/ORIENTATION**

The meeting agenda was approved by consensus. No members of the public provided public comment. Committee members and staff introduced themselves to each other. Division staff presented orientation information regarding the fishery management plan process and the role of advisors. Committee members asked questions concerning the reimbursement process and required tax forms.



## **STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCESS PRESENTATION**

Division staff presented a stock assessment presentation to the committee; that introduced the stock assessment process and terminology to the committee. The committee discussed why the 2014 southern flounder assessment did not pass peer review, as well as examples of gear selectivity and the different types of data that is needed for an assessment.

## **OTHER QUESTIONS FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Additional discussion concerned the status of Supplement A of Amendment 1; staff indicated additional management measures cannot be implemented prior to the adoption of Amendment 2. The committee asked about 2017 preliminary landings; and staff noted the preliminary landings are available, but only up to October 2017.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Staff and committee discussed the upcoming meeting schedule. Tentative schedule would be 1) data meeting – first part of March, 2) assessment meeting – May, 3) research recommendations – July. The committee discussed the best night to meet; and decided on Wednesdays. The March meeting will be on a Wednesday; staff will send out information when a date is set.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Cc:	Catherine Blum	Dee Lupton	Jason Walker
	Anne Deaton	Nancy Marlette	District Managers
	Nancy Fish	Phillip Reynolds	Committee Staff Members
	Christine Goebel	Jerry Schill	Marine Patrol Captains
	Jess Hawkins	Tricia Smith	Section Chiefs

