

Chairman's Report

February 2023 Business Meeting

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◊ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ◊

Monty R. Crump, Chairman

December 14, 2022

Chairman Rob Bizzell
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

Sent via email only: r.bizzell.mfc@ncdenr.gov

Dear Chairman Bizzell:

The Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) reviewed the Marine Fisheries Commission's (MFC) November 17, 2022, adoption of Amendment 2 to the North Carolina Estuarine Striped Bass Management Plan (Plan) at our Committee of the Whole meeting on December 7, 2022. The Plan has long been touted, by both Commissions, as a joint plan, and, in fact, the WRC did have staff that participate in Plan development. The WRC also reviewed the Plan and voted on our preferred management options on April 14, 2022, and I sent you a letter on April 29, 2022, stating:

“It is my understanding that the Plan is expected to be jointly adopted by both the WRC and MFC. Therefore, I request the WRC's preferred management options be listed in the same manner in the draft Plan as the MFC's preferred management options are listed. If there are differences in the preferred management options between the WRC and MFC, I look forward to the opportunity to formally discuss and hopefully resolve them prior to the Plan's final adoption scheduled for August.”

In the final draft Plan presented on November 17th, the MFC's selected management options were prominently listed in the Executive Summary and under the Striped Bass Amendments 2 Management Strategy section, while the WRC's preferred management options were listed in a table in appendix 6 alongside those of the Division of Marine Fisheries and the Southern, Finfish, and Northern Advisory Committees. At no time, between April 29th and the MFC's final vote on November 17th, did the MFC reach out to formally discuss our concerns and preferred management options. It certainly appears that our options were never considered.

Therefore, on December 7, 2022, in an official meeting of the Committee of the whole, the WRC took formal action to not approve Amendment 2 to the Estuarine Striped Bass Management Plan. The WRC understands that this is essentially a symbolic gesture, as the statutory requirement to adopt Fishery Management Plans is solely the responsibility of the MFC. The WRC does not consider this a joint Plan; not because our preferred management options were not adopted but because we were not even given

the chance to discuss and potentially resolve our differences prior to adoption, as requested. The WRC will continue to manage Striped Bass in our jurisdiction as we deem in the best interest of conservation of the species and within the framework of the laws and rules we have promulgated.

Best regards,



Monty R. Crump
Chairman, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

ec: Members of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Cameron N. Ingram, Executive Director, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Kathy Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries



EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

Public Servants must complete the Ethics and Lobbying Education program provided by the N.C. State Ethics Commission within **six months** of their election, appointment, or employment. We recommend that this be completed as soon as possible, but the training must be repeated every two years after the initial session.

Since Adobe Flash was terminated on December 31, 2020, our online program is not available. A new and shorter online program will be available in the near future. The new program will be compatible with portable devices such as phones and tablets.

Live webinar presentations are being offered monthly and registration information for the live presentations can be found [here](#). These presentations are about 90 minutes long and give you the opportunity to ask questions of the speaker.

For questions or additional information concerning the Ethics Education requirements, please contact Dottie Benz at (919) 389-1383.

Marine Fisheries Commission 2023 Annual Calendar

Dates are subject to change.

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1		3	4	5	6	7
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February						
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June						
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December						
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31						

2023 MFC Meeting Dates

MFC Business Meetings

February 22-24
May 24-26
August 23-25
November 15-17

Northern Regional AC

January 10
April 11
July 11
October 10

Southern Regional AC

January 11
April 12
July 12
October 11

Finfish Standing AC

January 12
April 13
July 13
October 12

Shellfish/Crustacean Standing AC

January 17
April 18
July 18
October 17

Habitat and Water Quality Standing AC

January 18
April 19
July 19
October 18

Calendar Key

	MFC		Northern Regional AC
	ASMFC		Southern Regional AC
	SAFMC		Finfish Standing AC
	MAFMC		Habitat and Water Quality Standing AC
	State Holiday		Shellfish/Crustacean Standing AC

2022 Committee Assignments for Marine Fisheries Commissioners

09/1/2022

FINFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statutorily required standing committee comprised of commissioners and advisers that considers matters related to finfish.

Commissioners: Tom Roller – co-chair, Sarah Gardner – co-chair, Mike Blanton – vice chair

DMF Staff Lead: Lee Paramore - lee.paramore@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Can meet quarterly, depending on assignments from MFC

HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE & COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

Statutorily required standing committee comprised of commissioners and advisers that considers matters concerning habitat and water quality that may affect coastal fisheries resources.

Commissioners: Doug Rader – chair, Ana Shellem– vice chair

DMF Staff Lead: Anne Deaton - anne.deaton@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Committee can meet quarterly, depending on assignments from MFC. CHPP Steering Committee can meet a couple of times a year.

SHELLFISH/CRUSTACEAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statutorily required standing committee comprised of commissioners and advisers that considers matters concerning oysters, clams, scallops and other molluscan shellfish, shrimp and crabs.

Commissioners: Ana Shellem – co-chair, Mike Blanton – co-chair, Doug Cross – vice chair

DMF Staff Lead: Tina Moore - tina.moore@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Can meet quarterly, depending on assignments from MFC

CONSERVATION FUND COMMITTEE

Committee comprised of commissioners that makes recommendations to the MFC for administering funds to be used for marine and estuarine resources management, including education about the importance of conservation.

Commissioners: Doug Rader - chair, and Robert McNeill

DMF Staff Lead: Steve Poland – steve.poland@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CIVIL PENALTY COMMITTEE

Statutorily required committee comprised of commissioners that makes final agency decisions on civil penalty remission requests.

Commissioners: Rob Bizzell - chair, Doug Cross

DMF Staff Lead: Col. Carter Witten – carter.witten@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE TRUST COMMITTEE

Committee consisting of the three recreational seats and the science seat to provide the DMF advice on the projects and grants issued using Coastal Recreational Fishing License trust funds.

Commissioners: Robert McNeill– chair, Rob Bizzell, Tom Roller, and Doug Rader

DMF Staff Lead: Jamie Botinovch - jamie.botinovch@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Committee comprised of commissioners that makes recommendations to the MFC on at-large and obligatory nominees for the Mid- and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils.

Commissioners: Robert McNeill – chair, Ana Shellem, Tom Roller and Mike Blanton

DMF Staff Lead: Chris Batsavage - chris.batsavage@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Typically meets once a year

STANDARD COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE ELIGIBILITY BOARD

Statutorily required three-person board consisting of DEQ, DMF and MFC designees who apply eligibility criteria to determine whether an applicant is eligible for a SCFL.

Commission Designee: Mike Blanton

DMF Staff Lead: Marine Patrol Capt. Garland Yopp – garland.yopp@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets two to three times a year, could need to meet more often depending on volume of applications

N.C. COMMERCIAL FISHING RESOURCE FUND COMMITTEE

Committee comprised of commissioners that the commission has given authority to make funding decisions on projects to develop and support sustainable commercial fishing in the state.

Commissioners: Doug Cross – chair, Mike Blanton, Ana Shellem

DMF Staff Lead: William Brantley – william.brantley@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets two to three times a year

WRC/MFC JOINT COMMITTEE ON DELINEATION OF FISHING WATERS

Committee formed to help integrate the work of the two commissions as they fulfill their statutory responsibilities to jointly determine the boundaries that define North Carolina's Inland, Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters as the agencies go through a statutorily defined periodic review of existing rules.

MFC Commissioners: Rob Bizzell, Donald Huggins, Sarah Gardner

DMF Staff Lead: Anne Deaton - anne.deaton@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

SHELLFISH CULTIVATION LEASE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Three-member committee formed to hear appeals of decisions of the Secretary regarding shellfish cultivation leases issued under G.S. 113-202.

MFC Commissioners: Rob Bizzell

DMF Staff Lead: Jacob Boyd – jacob.boyd@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

The CHPP Steering Committee, which consists of two commissioners from the Marine Fisheries, Coastal Management and Environmental Management commissions reviews and approves the plan, recommendations, and implementation actions.

MFC Commissioners: Doug Rader, Donald Huggins

DMF Staff Lead: Anne Deaton – anne.deaton@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed