

# Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting

## AGENDA

Doubletree Hotel, New Bern, NC

February 21-23, 2024

*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, February 21

4:00 p.m. Conservation Funding Committee – 2024 striped bass stocking supplemental funding request – Charlton Godwin, Steve Poland

6:00 p.m. Public Comment Period

### Thursday, February 22

9:00 a.m. Public Comment Period

9:30 a.m. Preliminary Matters

- Commission Call to Order\* – Rob Bizzell, Chairman
- Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
- Conflict of Interest Reminder
- Roll Call
- **Approval of Agenda \*\***
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes\*\***

9:45 a.m. Chairman's Report

- Letters and Online Comments
- Ethics Training and Statement of Economic Interest Reminder
- Committee Reports
  - Northern Regional Advisory Committee
  - Southern Regional Advisory Committee
  - Finfish Standing Advisory Committee
  - Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee
  - Habitat and Water Quality Advisory Committee

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

*\*\*Probable Action Items*

## Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting Agenda

- Joint Meeting of the MFC Commercial Resources Fund Committee and the funding committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund
- **Conservation Funding Committee Verbal Update- Doug Rader\*\***

10:30 a.m. Director's Report – Kathy Rawls

- Reports and updates on recent Division of Marine Fisheries activities
  - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – Chris Batsavage
  - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Update – Chris Batsavage
  - South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Update – Trish Murphey
  - Habitat and Enhancement Section Update – Anne Deaton
  - Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality Section Update – Shannon Jenkins
  - Fisheries Management Section Update – Steve Poland
  - Marine Patrol Update – Col. Carter Witten
  - License and Statistics Section Update – Brandi Salmon
- Informational Materials:
  - Protected Resources Update Memo
  - Rule Suspensions Update Memo

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. Update on Strategic Habitat Areas (SHA's) Study Report – Anne Deaton

2:00 p.m. Fishery Management Plans

- Status of ongoing plans – Corrin Flora
- **Striped Mullet FMP Amendment 2 (Draft) – Jeff Dobbs, Willow Patten\*\***
  - Review Public Comment and AC Recommendations
  - **Vote on Preferred Management Options\*\***
- **Shrimp FMP Amendment 2 Implementation Items\*\***
  - Information Paper Exploring a Shrimp Trawl Observer Program – Jason Rock
  - **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Protection Through Shrimp Trawl Area Closures Issue Paper – Chris Stewart\*\***

## Friday, February 23

9:00 a.m. Rulemaking

- Rulemaking Issues Update – Christine Ryan
- Rulemaking – Catherine Blum
  - 2023-2024 Rulemaking Cycle Update
  - 2024-2025 Rulemaking Cycle
    - **Vote on preferred management option and associated proposed language for rulemaking for "False Albacore Management" issue paper\*\***
    - **Vote on preferred management option and associated proposed language for rulemaking for "Simplify Pot Marking Requirements" issue paper\*\***
    - Preview of additional rulemaking issues under development

10:00 a.m. Issues from Commissioners

10:30 a.m. Meeting Assignments and Preview of Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Kathy Rawls

10:45 a.m. Adjourn

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

*\*\*Probable Action Items*