

Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting

AGENDA

Beaufort Hotel, Beaufort, NC

May 22-24, 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, May 22

6:00 p.m. Public Comment Period

Thursday, May 23

9:00 a.m. Public Comment Period

9:30 a.m. Preliminary Matters

- Swearing in of New Commissioner
- 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
- Session Law 2023-137, Section 6: Phased in Mandatory Commercial and Recreational Reporting of Certain Fish Harvests – *Christine Ryan*
- Discussion on 2024 Recreational Flounder Season
- Ethics Training and Statement of Economic Interest Reminder

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

****Probable Action Items**

Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting Agenda

- Committee Reports
 - Northern Regional Advisory Committee
 - Southern Regional Advisory Committee
 - Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee
- 10:30 a.m. Director's Report – *Kathy Rawls*
 - Reports and updates on recent Division of Marine Fisheries activities
 - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Update – *Chris Batsavage*
 - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Update – *Chris Batsavage*
 - South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Update – *Chris Batsavage*
 - Section Updates – *Zach Harrison, Shannon Jenkins, Steve Poland, Brandi Salmon, Col. Carter Witten*
 - Informational Materials
 - Protected Resources Update Memo
 - Rule Suspensions Update Memo
- 11:15 a.m. Shellfish Leases and Franchises Presentation – *Zach Harrison*
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break
- 1:30 p.m. Fishery Management Plans – *Steve Poland*
 - Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2- - *Jeff Dobbs, Willow Patten*
 - **Vote on Final Adoption of Amendment 2 ****
 - Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2 Update – *Charlton Godwin*
 - 2024 Revision to Amendment 2
 - Oyster/Clam fishery management plans update – *Joe Facendola, Bennett Paradis, Jeff Dobbs, Lorena de la Garza*
 - Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1 Update – *Lucas Pensinger, Melinda Lambert*
 - 2024 Southern Flounder Symposium Update – *Anne Markwith, Holly White*
 - Break for viewing of exhibits
 - Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3
 - Stock Assessment Update – *Dr. CJ Schlick*
 - Adaptive Management Update – *Robert Corbett, McLean Seward*
 - Shrimp Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2 Implementation Item Update – *Kathy Rawls*
 - **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Protection Through Shrimp Trawl Area Closures ****

Friday, May 24

- 9:00 a.m. Rulemaking
 - Rulemaking Update – *Catherine Blum*
 - 2023-2024 Rulemaking Cycle
 - **Vote on final approval to amend 15A NCAC 03I .0113, 03O .0101, .0109, .0112, .0301 for Data Collection and Harassment**

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

**Probable Action Items

Prevention for the Conservation of Marine and Estuarine Resources **

- **Vote on final approval to amend 15A NCAC 03R .0117 for Oyster Sanctuary Changes ****
- **Vote on final approval to amend or repeal 15A NCAC 03I .0101, 03K .0101, .0104, .0301, .0401, .0403, .0405, 03O .0201, .0501, .0503, 18A .0901, .0906 for Conforming Changes for Shellfish Relay Program and Shellfish Leases and Franchises ****
- **Vote on final approval to amend 15A NCAC 03K .0110 and 18A .0302 for Conforming Changes for Shellfish Sanitation****
- 2024-2025 Rulemaking Cycle
 - **Vote on management option and associated proposed language for rulemaking for “Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact” issue paper ****

- 9:30 a.m. Update on Proposed Amendments to the North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Strike Reduction Rule – *Barbie Byrd*
- 10:00 a.m. Blue Catfish Information Presentation – *Robert Corbett*
- 11:00 a.m. Issues from Commissioners
- 12:00 p.m. Meeting Assignments and Preview of Agenda Items for Next Meeting – *Jesse Bisette*
- 12:15 p.m. Adjourn

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

***Probable Action Items*