

NC Marine Fisheries Commission

## **Preliminary Matters**

**May 2025 Quarterly Business Meeting**

# **Documents**

---

Meeting Agenda

Draft March 2025 Meeting Minutes

# Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting

## AGENDA

Beaufort Hotel; Beaufort, NC

May 21-23, 2025

*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 21, 2025

6:00 p.m.      Public Comment Period

### Thursday, May 22, 2025

9:00 a.m.      Public Comment Period

9:30 a.m.      Preliminary Matters

- Commission Call to Order\* – *Sammy Corbett, 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

10:00 a.m.      Director's Report – *Kathy Rawls*

- Informational Materials
  - Spotted Seatrout Cold Stun Update Memo

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

**\*\*Probable Action Items**

## Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting Agenda

- Rule Suspension Memo

10:30 a.m. Economic Analysis Presentation – *Jason Walsh, Catherine Blum*

11:30 a.m. Rulemaking – *Catherine Blum*

- 2023-2024 Rulemaking Cycle Update
- 2024-2025 Rulemaking Cycle Update
- 2025-2026 Rulemaking Cycle
  - **Vote on Notice of Text for Rulemaking for amendment of 15A NCAC 03I .0101, .0114, 03O .0501-.0503 for Permit-Related Rules \*\***
  - **Vote on Notice of Text for Rulemaking for amendment of 15A NCAC 03I .0101, 03O .0201, .0207, .0208, .0210 for Franchises and Shellfish Leases \*\***

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. Central Southern Management Area Striped Bass – *Dan Zapf, Charlton Godwin, Todd Mathes*

2:00 p.m. Spotted Seatrout Cold Stun Information Update – *Lucas Pensinger, Melinda Lambert*

2:15 p.m. Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3 Adaptive Management – *Robert Corbett, McLean Sewart*

3:00 p.m. Eastern Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5 – *Bennett Paradis, Joe Facendola*

- **Vote on Final Adoption of Amendment 5 \*\***

3:45 p.m. Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3 – *Lorena de la Garza, Jeff Dobbs*

- **Vote on Final Adoption of Amendment 3 \*\***

### Friday, May 23, 2025

9:00 a.m. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4 – *Jeff Dobbs*

- Review public comment and AC recommendations
- **Select preferred management option \*\***

9:30 a.m. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5 – *Jeff Dobbs, Dan Zapf*

- Scoping Period Overview

10:00 a.m. Submerged Aquatic Vegetation – *Charlie Deaton*

- Economic valuation of fisheries production enhancement from seagrass in a temperate estuary - *Madeline Payne*
- Dynamics of fish-habitat relationships in NC seagrass meadows – *Joel Fodrie*

11:00 a.m. Issues from Commissioners

11:30 a.m. Meeting Assignments and Preview of Agenda Items for Next Meeting – *Jesse Bissette*

11:45 a.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**

**Hilton Garden Inn**

**Kitty Hawk, North Carolina**

**March 12-13, 2025**

The Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) held a business meeting March 12-13, 2025, at the Hilton Garden Inn hotel in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. In addition to the public comment sessions, members of the public submitted public comment online or via U.S. mail. The written comment, 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 – MOTIONS AND ACTIONS**

March 12, 2025

### Public Comment Period

Chairman Sammy Corbett held a public comment session that began at 2:00 p.m. The following members of the public provided comment to the commission: Jeffrey Berry, Steve House, Jerry Schill, Joe Romano, Sam Romano, Kris Noble, Richard Newman, Ervin Bateman, Woody Joyner, Ernie Foster, Stuart Creighton, Paul Beals, Bill Wiese, Lauren Burch, Wayne Burch, Micah Daniels, Dewey Hemilright, Gene Ashton, Britton Shackleford, Mike Burrus, Jeff Oden, Lewis Molton, Gwen Newman, Thomas Newman, Brownny Douglas, Frank Helms, Justin Stewart, Stephen Spruill, Carson Creef. With no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Corbett ended the public comment period at 3:20 p.m.

[View the video recording of the March 12, 2025, 2:00 p.m. public comment session](#)

### Preliminary Matters

Chairman Corbett called the March 12-13, 2025, 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: Sammy Corbett – Chairman, Ryan Bethea, Mike Blanton, Willie Closs, Sarah Gardner, Doug Rader, Tom Roller, and William Service. Alfred Hobgood participated virtually.

Chairman Corbett asked for any corrections or additions to the meeting agenda and then requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Mike Blanton requested the Blue Crab FMP Amendment 3 Revision presentation and discussion, that was originally intended for the February 2025 business meeting, to be brought before the MFC at the May 2025 business meeting.

**Motion by Commissioner Roller to approve the meeting agenda.**

**Second by Commissioner Rader.**

ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hobgood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Chairman Corbett asked for any corrections, additions or deletions that need to be made to the November 2024 MFC Quarterly Business Meeting minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes.

**Motion by Commissioner Roller to approve the November 2024 business meeting minutes.**

**Second by Commissioner Rader.**

ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hobgood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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

#### 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 MFC Liaison Jesse Bisette 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.

#### Director's Report

Director Kathy Rawls began her report by updating the Commission on the new Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Reid Wilson and Deputy Secretary John Nicholson. She also gave an update on the implementation and outreach efforts regarding the mandatory harvest reporting requirements that were set into session law. Director Rawls then gave an update regarding the ongoing Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Lawsuit. Director Rawls also gave an update on the Observer Trip Scheduling System (OTSS) that went into effect since the prior meeting. Director Rawls concluded her report by updating the Commission on the FMPs scheduled for review this year.

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

**Motion by Commissioner Gardner for the MFC to send a letter of support for Amendment 59 to the FMP for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (red snapper).**

**Second by Commissioner Blanton.**

ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hobgood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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

#### Rulemaking

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Rulemaking Coordinator Catherine Blum provided updates on the 2023-2024 rulemaking cycle and the 2024-2025 rulemaking cycle.

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

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

**Motion by Commissioner Roller to approve final adoption of 15A NCAC 03O .0601-.0606 for Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.**

**Second by Commissioner Rader.**

ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hobgood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion by Commissioner Blanton to approve final adoption of amendment to 15A NCAC 03J .0301 to simplify pot marking requirements.**

**Second by Commissioner Rader.**

ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hobgood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion by Commissioner Roller to approve final adoption of 15A NCAC 03M .0523 for false albacore management.**

**Second by Commissioner Rader.**



ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hobgood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Motion passed 5-4.**

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

#### Eastern Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5

DMF Biologists Bennett Paradis and Joe Facendola gave a presentation on the 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.](#)

**Motion by Commissioner Service to select as the MFC's preferred management option for the draft N.C. Eastern Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5 for:**

- **Mechanical Harvest:**
  - **Deep-Water Oyster Recovery Areas: Adopt the proposed Pamlico and Neuse River Deep-water Oyster Recover Areas (DORAs), as shown in Figure 2.7 on page 83 of the draft FMP.**

**Second by Commissioner Roller.**

**Motion by Commissioner Blanton to amend the previous motion by the MFC selecting as its preferred management option for the Deep-Water Oyster Recovery Areas as follows:**

- **MECHANICAL HARVEST:**
  - **Deep-Water Oyster Recovery Areas: c. Adopt smaller proposed Pamlico and Neuse River Deep-water Oyster Recovery Areas (DORAs), which are**

bound by existing navigational aids, to protect deep subtidal oyster reefs from continued physical disturbance by mechanical gear. These areas will be closed to mechanical oyster dredging and monitoring efforts will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of closure within the next FMP amendment. The smaller DORAs cover 271 acres of potential habitat (200 acres in Pamlico River and 71 acres in Neuse River), which represents only approximately 32% of the vulnerable habitat.

Second by Commissioner Bethea.

ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hobgood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rader	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion passed 5-4, amended motion now becomes main motion.

Motion by Commissioner Roller to offer a substitute motion for the MFC to select the DMF recommendation as the MFC's preferred management option for the draft N.C. Eastern Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5, as follows for:

- **MECHANICAL HARVEST:**
  - Deep-Water Oyster Recovery Areas: b. Adopt the proposed Pamlico and Neuse River Deep-water Oyster Recovery Areas (DORAs), which are bound by existing navigational aids as presented to the NC MFC regional Advisory Committees, to protect deep subtidal oyster reefs from continued physical disturbance by mechanical gear. These areas will be closed to mechanical oyster dredging and monitoring efforts will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of closure within the next FMP amendment. The DORAs cover 681 acres of potential oyster habitat (500 acres in Pamlico River and 180 acres in Neuse River), which represents approximately 81% of the vulnerable deep-water oyster habitat.

Second by Commissioner Rader.

ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hobgood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion passed 5-4, substituted motion now becomes main motion.

Motion as substituted by Commissioner Roller for the MFC to select the DMF recommendation as the MFC's preferred management option for the draft N.C. Eastern Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5, as follows for:

- **MECHANICAL HARVEST:**
  - **Deep-Water Oyster Recovery Areas:** b. Adopt the proposed Pamlico and Neuse River Deep-water Oyster Recovery Areas (DORAs), which are bound by existing navigational aids as presented to the NC MFC regional Advisory Committees, to protect deep subtidal oyster reefs from continued physical disturbance by mechanical gear. These areas will be closed to mechanical oyster dredging and monitoring efforts will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of closure withing the next FMP amendment. The DORAs cover 681 acres of potential oyster habitat (500 acres in Pamlico River and 180 acres in Neuse River), which represents approximately 81% of the vulnerable deep-water oyster habitat.

Second by Commissioner Rader

ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hobgood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion passed 5-4.

Motion by Commissioner Roller to select the DMF recommendations as the MFC's preferred management options for the remaining management measures in the draft N.C. Eastern Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5 , which are as follows for:

- **RECREATIONAL HARVEST: b. Support the DMF to further explore potential options and develop a solution to estimate recreational shellfish participation and landings, and to establish a mechanism to provide all recreational shellfish harvesters with Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality health and safety information outside of the FMP process.**
- **MECHANICAL HARVEST:**
  - **Cultch Supported Harvest: b. Adopt the Cultch Supported Harvest strategy outlined in Appendix 2, which would set the season length based on pre-season sampling aided by industry input on sampling locations with he 10 bushel per day and 15 bushel per day areas considered separately.**
  - **Rotational Harvest Cultch Sites: b. Adopt the inclusion of Rotational Harvest Cultch Sites strategy outlined in Appendix 2. This strategy would create a rotating series of readily available cultch areas available to harvest for the full extent of the mechanical season length each year with the intent of reducing harvest pressure on natural reefs.**
  - **Adaptive Management for Cultch Supported Harvest strategy: b. Adopt the proposed adaptive management framework to allow for modification of set season length based on changes to participation in the fishery.**

**Second by Commissioner Service.**

ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hobgood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Motion passed 8-1.**

[View the video recording of the motions and surrounding discussions.](#)

Public Comment Period

Chairman Sammy Corbett held a public comment session that began at 6:55 p.m. The following members of the public provided comment to the commission: Tara Foreman, Julie Hodges, Gwen Newman, Kristina Bridges, Bob Woodard, David Gallop, Reece Stecker, Mary Ellen Ballance, Charles Locke, James Byrd, David Warren, Ralph Craddock. With no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Corbett ended the public comment period at 7:35 p.m.

[View the video recording of the March 12, 2025, 6:00 p.m. public comment session.](#)

March 13, 2025

Chairman Corbett convened the MFC business meeting at 9:00 a.m. on March 13, 2025.

Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3

DMF Biologists Jeff Dobbs and Lorena de la Garza gave a presentation on the Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3.

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

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

**Motion by Commissioner Roller to select the DMF recommendations as the MFC's preferred management options for the draft N.C. Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3, which are as follows for:**

- **RECREATIONAL HARVEST: b. Support the DMF to further explore potential options to develop a solution to estimate recreational shellfish participation and landings, with the intent to move towards a stock assessment and stock level management for both hard clams and oysters; and to establish a mechanism to provide all recreational shellfish harvesters with Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality health and safety information outside of the FMP process.**
- **MECHANICAL CLAM HARVEST: d. Phase out mechanical clam harvest in three years (May 2028) to be consistent with G.S. 113-221 (d).**
- **MECHANICAL CLAM HARVEST IN CONJUNCTION WITH MAINTENANCE DREDGING: b. Discontinue allowance for mechanical clam harvest in conjunction with maintenance dredging upon adoption of this plan.**

**Second by Commissioner Service.**

ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hobgood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Motion passed 5-4.**

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

2024 Southern Flounder Preliminary Landings Update

DMF Biologists Anne Markwith and Holly White gave a presentation on the Southern Flounder Preliminary Landings.

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

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

#### Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4

DMF Biologists Jeff Dobbs and Dan Zapf gave a presentation on the Southern Flounder FMP Amendment 4.

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

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

**Motion by Commissioner Roller to approve the draft N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4 for public and MFC Advisory Committee review.**

**Second by Commissioner Service.**

ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hobgood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rader	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Motion passed 5-4.**

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

#### Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1

Before the presentation, Director Rawls updated the Commission regarding the current Spotted Seatrout fishery closure due to severe cold stun. DMF Biologists Lucas Pensinger and Melinda Lambert gave a presentation on the Spotted Seatrout FMP Amendment 1.

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

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

**Motion by Commissioner Blanton to give approval to adopt the N.C. Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1 as presented, excluding the commercial slot limit and the elimination of the captain and crew limit.**

**Second by Commissioner Gardner**

ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hobgood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rader	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corbett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Motion passed 5-3, with 1 abstention.**

[View the video recording of the motion 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

The DMF's MFC Liaison Jesse Bissette reviewed meeting assignments and provided an overview of the May 2025 meeting items.

[View the video recording of the discussion](#)

Having no further business to conduct, Chairman Corbett adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.