

March 2026 Committee Reports

May 2026 Quarterly Business Meeting

Documents

Northern Regional Advisory Committee

Southern Regional Advisory Committee

Finfish Advisory Committee

Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee

Habitat & Water Quality
Advisory Committee



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

March 11, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission
Northern Regional Advisory Committee

FROM: Coral Sawyer, Program Assistant
Marine Fisheries Commission Office

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Commission's Northern Regional Advisory Committee, March 10, 2026, to have conversation between the Division and the Advisory Committee.

The Marine Fisheries Commission's (MFC) Northern Regional Advisory Committee (AC) held a meeting on March 10, 2026, at the Washington Civic Center in Washington, North Carolina and via webinar. AC members could attend in either setting to communicate with other committee members.

The following Advisory Committee members were in attendance in person: Keith Bruno, Stuart Creighton, Wayne Dunbar, Robert Makowsky, Thomas Newman, Jason Weeks, and Sara Winslow – Chair. The following members were in attendance online: Everett Blake, Melissa Clark, and Morton Gaskill. (Absent: Jamie Winslow)

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Staff: Jesse Bisette, Barbie Byrd, Jeff Dobbs, Debbie Manley, Dan Zapf, Captain Daniel Ipock, Major Eddie Mann, Officer Candace Rose.

The following members of the public signed in: Sarah Gardner, Brian Horsley, Stephanie Scarborough.

The Northern Regional AC had ten members present at the start of the meeting and a quorum was met.

Northern Regional AC Chair Sara Winslow called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The full meeting can be viewed [here](#).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Stuart Creighton and seconded by Robert Makowsky. The motion passed by unanimous consent. A motion to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2025, meeting was made by Melissa Clark and seconded by Wayne Dunbar. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Sara Winslow opened the floor to the public for comment, no members of the public provided comment.

COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION PLAN

MFC Liaison Jesse Bisette gave a verbal update on the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) 2026 Amendment. After the presentation, Chair Sara Winslow opened the floor to advisors for comments and questions.



JOSH STEIN
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[View the recording and the surrounding discussion.](#)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES

DMF Biologists Jeff Dobbs and Dan Zapf gave a presentation providing updates on activity related to the recently reviewed and upcoming Fishery Management Plans. After the presentation, Chair Sara Winslow opened the floor to advisors for comments and questions.

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

ISSUES FROM AC MEMBERS

Chair Sara Winslow opened the floor to advisors for any comments and questions. MFC Liaison Jesse Bisette gave updates concerning the recent MFC business meeting.

Motion by Thomas Newman to support option 1 (status quo) in the Atlantic Bonito Management issue paper. Second by Morton Gaskill.

Member	ROLL CALL VOTE				
	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Blake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bruno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creighton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dunbar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gaskill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Makowsky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weeks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jamie Winslow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Winslow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion passed 7-2, with 1 abstention.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

March 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission
Southern Regional Advisory Committee

FROM: Coral Sawyer, Program Assistant
Marine Fisheries Commission Office

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Commission's Southern Regional Advisory Committee, March 11, 2026, to have conversation between the Division and the Advisory Committee.

The Marine Fisheries Commission's (MFC) Southern Regional Advisory Committee (AC) held a meeting on March 11, 2026, at the Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington, North Carolina and via webinar. AC members could attend in either setting to communicate with other committee members.

The following Advisory Committee members were in attendance in person: Samuel Boyce, Tancel Lee, Laura Lukas, Michael Oppegaard, Richard Sear, Ken Seigler, Fred Scharf - Chair. The following members were in attendance online: Jeremy Skinner, Tom Smith. (Absent: Pam Morris, Glen Skinner)

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Staff: Jesse Bisette, Barbie Byrd, Jeff Dobbs, Debbie Manley, Dan Zapf, Colonel Chris Lee, Captain Garland Yopp.

The following members of the public signed in: Sammy Corbett, Philip Hamilton, Jake Griffin, Albie Solana.

The Southern Regional AC had nine members present at the start of the meeting and a quorum was met.

Southern Regional AC Chair Fred Scharf called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The full meeting can be viewed [here](#).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Richard Sear and seconded by Ken Seigler. The motion passed unanimously. A motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2025, meeting was made by Ken Seigler and seconded by Samuel Boyce. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Fred Scharf opened the floor to the public for comment, no members of the public provided comment.

COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION PLAN

MFC Liaison Jesse Bisette gave a verbal update on the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) 2026 Amendment. After the presentation, Chair Fred Scharf opened the floor to advisors for comments and questions.

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



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
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KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES

DMF Biologists Jeff Dobbs and Dan Zapf gave a presentation providing updates on activity related to the recently reviewed and upcoming Fishery Management Plans. After the presentation, Chair Fred Scharf opened the floor to advisors for comments and questions.

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

ISSUES FROM AC MEMBERS

Chair Fred Scharf opened the floor to advisors for any comments and questions. Jesse Bisette gave updates concerning the recent MFC business meeting.

Motion by Jeremy Skinner to recommend to the MFC to remain status quo in regard to the Atlantic Bonito Management issue paper. Second by Ken Seigler.

Member	ROLL CALL VOTE				
	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Boyce	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lukas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morris	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oppegaard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sear	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seigler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Skinner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
J. Skinner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scharf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Motion fails 3-4, with one abstention.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

March 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission
Finfish Advisory Committee

FROM: Coral Sawyer, Program Assistant
Marine Fisheries Commission Office

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Commission's Finfish Advisory Committee, March 12, 2026, to have conversation between the Division and the Advisory Committee.

The Marine Fisheries Commission's (MFC) Finfish Advisory Committee (AC) held a meeting on March 12, 2026, at DMF's Central District Office in Morehead City, North Carolina and via webinar. AC members could attend in either setting to communicate with other committee members.

The following Advisory Committee members were in attendance in person: Jeff Buckel, Lewis Dunn, Jake Griffin, Selby Lewis, Jesse Mock, Randy Proctor, Tom Roller, William Tarplee, Sammy Corbett – Chair. The following members were in attendance online: Tommy Day, Brent Fulcher.

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Staff: Jesse Bisette, Barbie Byrd, Jeff Dobbs, Debbie Manley, Dan Zapf, Officer Ben Bolton, Colonel Chris Lee.

The following members of the public signed in: Lauren Salter, Malli Han, Dave Pryor.

The Finfish AC had ten members present at the start of the meeting and a quorum was met.

Finfish AC Chair Sammy Corbett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The full meeting can be viewed [here](#).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Tom Roller and seconded by Jake Griffin. The motion passed unanimously. A motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2025, meeting was made by Jake Griffin and seconded by Selby Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Sammy Corbett opened the floor to the public for comment, no members of the public provided comment.

COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION PLAN

MFC Liaison Jesse Bisette gave an update on the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) 2026 Amendment. After the presentation, Chair Sammy Corbett opened the floor to advisors for comments and questions.

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



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES

DMF Biologists Jeff Dobbs and Dan Zapf gave a presentation providing updates on activity related to the recently reviewed and upcoming Fishery Management Plans. After the presentation, Chair Sammy Corbett opened the floor to advisors for comments and questions.

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

ISSUES FROM AC MEMBERS

Chair Sammy Corbett opened the floor to advisors for any comments and questions. Jesse Bissette gave updates concerning the recent MFC business meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

March 18, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission
Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee

FROM: Coral Sawyer, Program Assistant
Marine Fisheries Commission Office

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Commission's Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee, March 17, 2026, to have conversation between the Division and the Advisory Committee.

The Marine Fisheries Commission's (MFC) Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee (AC) held a meeting on March 17, 2026, at DMF's Central District Office in Morehead City, North Carolina and via webinar. AC members could attend in either setting to communicate with other committee members.

The following Advisory Committee members were in attendance in person: Lauren Burch, Mary Sue Hammann, Will Service, Thomas Todd, Brett Wilson, Mike Blanton – Chair. The following members were in attendance online: Michael Hardison, Mike Marshall, Brassai Mustin, Peter Watkins, Tim Willis.

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Staff: Jesse Bisette, Barbe Byrd, Jeff Dobbs, Debbie Manley, Dan Zapf, Officer Zach Nelson.

The following members of the public signed in: Wendy Hubbard, Lauren Salter, Ayden Berry.

The Shellfish/Crustacean AC had 10 members present at the start of the meeting and a quorum was met.

Shellfish/Crustacean AC Chair Mike Blanton called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The full meeting can be viewed [here](#).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Thomas Todd and seconded by Tim Willis. The motion passed unanimously. A motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2025, meeting was made by Tim Willis and seconded by Brett Wilson. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Mike Blanton opened the floor to the public for comment, no members of the public provided comment.

COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION PLAN

MFC Liaison Jesse Bisette gave an update on the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) 2026 Amendment. After the presentation, Chair Mike Blanton opened the floor to advisors for comments and questions.



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

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

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES

DMF Biologists Jeff Dobbs and Dan Zapf gave a presentation providing updates on activity related to the recently reviewed and upcoming Fishery Management Plans. After the presentation, Chair Mike Blanton opened the floor to advisors for comments and questions.

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

ISSUES FROM AC MEMBERS

Chair Mike Blanton opened the floor to advisors for any comments and questions. Jesse Bissette gave updates concerning the recent MFC business meeting and plans for future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

March 20, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission
Habitat & Water Quality Advisory Committee

FROM: Coral Sawyer, Program Assistant
Marine Fisheries Commission Office

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Commission's Habitat & Water Quality Advisory Committee, March 18, 2026, to have conversation between the Division and the Advisory Committee.

The Marine Fisheries Commission's (MFC) Habitat & Water Quality Advisory Committee (AC) held a meeting on March 18, 2026, at DMF's Central District Office in Morehead City, North Carolina and via webinar. AC members could attend in either setting to communicate with other committee members.

The following Advisory Committee members were in attendance in person: Jack Durham, Joel Fodrie, Sarah Gardner, Scott Leahy, Markham Parrish, Mark Sonder, Doug Rader – Chair. The following members were in attendance online: David Glenn, Lisa Rider. (Absent: Cate Arnold, Nathan Hall)

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Staff: Jesse Bissette, Barbie Byrd, Charlie Deaton, Zach Harrison, Debbie Manley.

The following members of the public signed in: Brian Horsley, Cohen McClain, Lauren Salter.

The Habitat & Water Quality AC had nine members present at the start of the meeting and a quorum was met.

Habitat & Water Quality AC Chair Doug Rader called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The full meeting can be viewed [here](#).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Scott Leahy and seconded by Markham Parrish. The motion passed unanimously. A motion to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2025 meeting was made by Markham Parrish and seconded by Scott Leahy. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Doug Rader opened the floor to the public for comment, no members of the public provided comment.

COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION PLAN

DMF Biologist Charlie Deaton gave a presentation on the status of the 2026 Amendment to the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan. After the presentation, Chair Doug Rader opened the floor to advisors for comments and questions.



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

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

ISSUES FROM AC MEMBERS

Chair Doug Rader opened the floor to advisors for any comments and questions. Jesse Bissette gave updates concerning the recent MFC business meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.