









**Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting Minutes**  
**Courtyard Marriott**  
**Jacksonville, North Carolina**  
**Aug. 17-18, 2022**

The commission held a business meeting Feb. 23-25 at the DoubleTree Hotel in New Bern, North Carolina. In addition to the public comment session, members of the public submitted public comment online or via U.S. mail. To view the public comment, go to: <https://deq.nc.gov/media/31006/open>

The briefing materials, presentations, and full audio from this meeting are available at: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/marine-fisheries-commission/marine-fisheries-commission-meetings#quarterly-business-meeting---august-17-18-2022>

Actions and motions from the meeting are listed in **bolded** type.

**BUSINESS MEETING - MOTIONS AND ACTIONS**

On Aug. 17, a public comment session was held beginning at 6 p.m. Chairman Rob Bizzell called the meeting to order. The following individuals spoke:

**Jerry Schill**, Director of Government Affairs for the N.C. Fisheries Association, spoke about striped bass management and the MFC's decision about closing gill nets above the ferry lines that ignored the science. Then-DMF director Steve Murphey and then-DEQ Secretary Regan commented to that effect. The Fisheries Reform Act was signed into law by Governor Hunt 25 years ago and is what put the MFC in existence; it exists because of that statute. Just like they put in statute the make-up of the MFC and its powers and duties, they also put in oversight of the MFC. He reminded the MFC there is a spotlight on the commission about whether you are abiding by your duties and responsibilities, especially when it comes to the area of science.

**Captain Josiah Irwin** is in the U.S. Marine Corps and transferred PCS (permanent change of station) here from California. He said N.C. fisheries was a big reason he decided to PCS here. Capt. Irwin said he has been fishing since he was 10 years old, and it has been a big part of his life. He has traveled the world, both in the Marine Corps and during his five years in college as an oil field worker in Qatar, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Texas, Oklahoma, and North and South Dakota, and fisheries laws here seem to be a little "out-of-whack" and could be practiced a little better. He said this is especially true for flounder and red snapper seasons; they seem to be mismanaged, not like in Hawaii and Guam where there are no regulations, but a better way would be like in Texas. There, for red fish, you get a tag to go with that red fish that you pay for beforehand. If something like this was implemented for red snapper or flounder, the commission could reduce the numbers of fishermen, increase profits, and implement the tags for about three dollars. This would be an easier way to measure the number of fish coming in and the commission could avoid going over what is allowed to be caught.



























