Documents

MFC Nominating Committee Memo

MFC Nominating Committee Meeting Minutes

SAFMC At-large Seat Nominees Bios

MAFMC At-large Seat Nominees Bios

JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

JONATHAN HOWELL
Director

Oct. 28, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

FROM: Chris Batsavage, Special Assistant for Councils

SUBJECT: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat Nominations for North Carolina

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Issue
The N.C. General Statutes require the Marine Fisheries Commission to approve nominees for federal fishery management council seats for the governor's consideration, and that the statutes allow the governor to consult with the commission regarding additions to the list of candidates. The governor must nominate no fewer than three individuals for a federal fishery management council seat.

Findings
The Marine Fisheries Commission's Nominating Committee forwarded the following individuals to the Marine Fisheries Commission for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat

- Tom Roller, charter boat captain from Carteret County and the current N.C. at-large member on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Brandy Carlton, recreational angler and tackle shop employee from Carteret County
- Chris Kimrey, charter boat captain from Carteret County
- Mike Oppegaard, charter boat captain from Topsail Island
- Jot Owens, charter boat captain from New Hanover County

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat

- Anna Beckwith, guide service owner from Carteret County and the current N.C. at-large member on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Stuart Creighton, recreational angler from eastern North Carolina
- Bill Gorham, recreational angler from Dare County

Action Needed
The commission needs to approve nominees for the N.C. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat and the N.C. Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat.

For more information, please refer to:

- The draft minutes from the Oct. 14, 2026 Nominating Committee Meeting
- The nominees' biographies

JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

JONATHAN HOWELL
Director

October 28, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission
Marine Fisheries Commission Nominating Committee

FROM: Chris Batsavage and Coral Sawyer
N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Commission's Nominating Committee, October 14, 2026

The Marine Fisheries Commission's (MFC) Nominating Committee held a meeting on October 14, 2026, at the Division of Marine Fisheries Central District Office in Morehead City, NC.

The following were in attendance:

Committee members: Sarah Gardner – Chair, John Mallette, Tom Roller.

Commissioners: Sammy Corbett.

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Staff: Chris Batsavage, Whitney Holl, Major Eddie Mann, Tina Moore, Coral Sawyer.

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

Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion by Commissioner Roller to approve the October 20, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public that provided comment.

REVIEW OF STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

Chris Batsavage briefly reviewed the N.C. General Statutes pertaining to the selection of nominees for federal fishery management council seats. He stated that the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission must approve a slate of candidates for the governor's consideration, and that the statutes allow the governor to consult with the commission regarding additions to the list of candidates. Batsavage also described the federal statutes and regulations pertaining to qualification of candidates and notes that the governor must submit a list of no less than three nominees for an

appointment. The commission will review the list of candidates approved by the committee at its business meeting on November 17-18, 2026.

Commissioner Roller asked for clarification regarding council term lengths and term limits. It was clarified that council terms are three years, with a limit of three terms (nine years total). However, filling a vacant seat mid-term due to a member's resignation or passing does not count towards the individual's term limit. Chris Batsavage confirmed this interpretation.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

Chris Batsavage reviewed the bios of the candidates for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large seat, briefly describing the background and qualifications of each: Tom Roller, Brandy Carlton, Chris Kimrey, Mike Oppegaard, Jot Owens.

Chris Batsavage reviewed the bios of the candidates for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large seat, briefly describing the background and qualifications of each: Anna Beckwith, Stuart Creighton, Bill Gorham.

There was no discussion of the individual candidates. Commissioner Roller commented that, based on his experience serving on councils, North Carolina does an excellent job of identifying qualified candidates for council appointments.

The committee discussed whether candidates removed from the list could be added back by the Marine Fisheries Commission. General discussion followed to clarify the process and determine whether the committee should identify a preferred candidate.

Motion by Commissioner Mallette to forward to the Marine Fisheries Commission for consideration the names of:

- **Tom Roller, Brandy Carlton, Chris Kimrey, Mike Oppegaard, and Jot Owens for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large seat.**
- **Anna Beckwith, Stuart Creighton, and Bill Gorham for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large seat.**

Seconded by Commissioner Gardner.

Roll Call

John Mallette	**Aye**
Tom Roller	**Recuse**
Sarah Gardner	**Aye**

Motion passed, 2-0 with 1 recusal.

The meeting ended at 6:25 p.m.

Mr. Thomas N. Roller

Mr. Roller is the owner and operator of Waterdog Guide Service. For over 20 years, he has been a full-time nearshore and inshore light tackle and fly-fishing guide operating along the Crystal Coast of North Carolina. Mr. Roller is a licensed U.S. Coast Guard captain with extensive knowledge of southeastern North Carolina's waterways, and spends over 200 days on the water annually with clients. Species managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, including Spanish and king mackerel, amberjack, and many snapper grouper complex species are important mainstays of his guiding business.

Mr. Roller has served two terms on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council as an active participant and leader in the Council process. He currently serves as the Chair of the Habitat and Ecosystem Committee, Chair of the Mackerel/Cobia Committee, Chair of the Outreach and Communication Committee, Vice Chair of the Dolphin/Wahoo committee and Vice Chair of the Law Enforcement Committee. He also previously served as Vice Chair of the Citizen Science Committee. In addition, he is the current Council representative on NOAA's High Migratory Species Advisory Panel, and routinely serves as a liaison to both the Mid-Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils. He is also an active participant in the SEDAR stock assessment process having been the Council representative on SEDAR 78 (Spanish Mackerel), SEDAR 94 (hogfish) and the upcoming SEDAR 108 (black seabass) and SEDAR for snowy grouper. Prior to being appointed to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, he served on the Council's Cobia/Mackerel Advisory Panel, Systems Management Plan workgroup and Citizen Science Advisory Panel and served 6 years on the MAFMC Bluefish Advisory Panel.

Mr. Roller is also a longtime participant in North Carolina's state fisheries management process. In February 2020 Mr. Roller was first appointed to the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission by Governor Roy Cooper and has served three consecutive terms in the Recreational Industry Seat. He continues to serve in this capacity under Governor Josh Stein.

Mr. Roller is a strong advocate for informed involvement in the management process. In 2017 he completed the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Marine Resource Education Program and encourages others to participate in MREP's education opportunities. He encourages students to learn about the fisheries management process and regularly serves as a guest speaker and informal mentor to graduate students in the marine science community. Mr. Roller also contributes on-the-water experience to support data collection for management and stock assessment. He volunteered as a field tester to refine the South Atlantic region's electronic for-hire logbook software, and participates in multiple ongoing fish tagging and fin clip studies for the American Saltwater Guides Association and their scientific partners.

Mr. Roller is a founding member of the American Saltwater Guides Association, a coastwide organization with the mission of promoting sustainable business through marine conservation. He currently serves as an executive board member representing the state of North Carolina. He was previously a member of the Executive Board of the Coastal Conservation Association of North Carolina from 2014 to January 2020 and served on the organization's Fisheries Committee as chairman from February 2016 to 2018.

Mr. Roller received a B.A. in English and history from Duke University in 2003 and resides in Beaufort, North Carolina.

To: Commissioner Sammy Corbett, Chairman
North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission
From: Thomas N. Roller
[redacted]

Re: Consideration for Reappointment to the At-Large Seat of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Dear Chairman Corbett,

I am pleased to submit my name as a candidate for reappointment to the At-Large seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. My resume and bio are enclosed.

Since 2003 I have been the owner and operator of Waterdog Guide Service. As a professional guide I provide customized inshore and nearshore light tackle and fly-fishing experiences for families and experienced anglers along North Carolina's Crystal Coast. As a full-time working waterman and active participant in the management process, I bring a unique and balanced perspective as well as extensive knowledge of North Carolina's diverse recreational and commercial fishing industries.

Our state is blessed with diverse fisheries that range from our inshore estuaries to the Gulf Stream. On any given day, I interact with species managed by the state of North Carolina, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Like many of our state's recreational and for-hire fishermen, I value the opportunity to target a wide variety of species. I understand the importance of access to both our state and federally managed fisheries to businesses and anglers, and this understanding of the bigger picture helps me be a more effective representative for our state's interests.

In addition to my on-the-water and business experience, I bring my strong commitment to being a well-informed stakeholder and representative for the state of North Carolina as a state commissioner and a SAFMC council member. In my two terms on the SAFMC, I sought opportunities to serve in a leadership role, including as Chair of the Mackerel Committee, which guides the management of two of North Carolina's most important recreational and commercial fisheries. As a Council member I have also been involved in efforts to address emerging challenges through the Council's work on resilient fisheries, habitat, and modernizing data collection. I am also personally committed to encouraging the next generation of stakeholders to become involved in the fisheries management process.

I would be honored to continue representing the state of North Carolina on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Roller

THOMAS NATHANIEL ROLLER

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Successful small business owner, for-hire fishing industry leader, and ecotourism professional; U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain with over 20 years of experience.
- Experienced industry leader currently serving on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission; active participant with in-depth knowledge of federal, interstate, and state fisheries management processes.
- Skilled communicator able to facilitate collaboration and compromise with diverse stakeholders and communicate the interests of North Carolina's valuable recreational fishing industry.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Waterdog Guide Service • Beaufort, NC
Founder, owner, and operator • 2003–present

Professional full-time guide providing customized inshore and nearshore light tackle and fly-fishing experiences for families and experienced anglers along North Carolina's Crystal Coast. Expert waterman and ecotourism industry professional averaging 200+ days on the water annually.

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
North Carolina At Large Seat • August 2021—present.

Currently serving as Chairman of the Mackerel Cobia Committee, Chairman of Outreach & Communications Committee, Chairman of the Habitat and Ecosystem Committee, Vice Chair of the Dolphin/Wahoo Committee, and Vice Chair of the Law Enforcement Committee. Previously served as Vice Chair of the Citizen Science Committee. Current SAFMC representative on NOAA Highly Migratory Species advisory panel. Served as a Council liaison to the Gulf of Mexico and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. Participant in the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning initiative and SAFMC representative on upcoming East Coast Governance Workshop.

SAFMC observer in SEDAR 78 (Spanish Mackerel), SEDAR 94 (Hogfish) and upcoming SEDAR 108 (black seabass) and the upcoming snowy grouper SEDAR.

North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission
Recreational Industry Seat • Jan. 2020—present. Reappointed August 2023 to third term.

Appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission, the rulemaking commission charged with managing the state's estuarine and marine living resources. Currently serving as chairman of the Finfish Advisory Committee, and member of the Coastal Recreational Fishing License Advisory Committee and the Nominating Committee.

American Saltwater Guides Association (ASGA)
North Carolina Representative & Executive Board Member January 2019—present, Policy Committee Member March 2019—present

Founding member and current voting board member, helping to provide an organized voice for recreational fishing industry with the mission of promoting sustainable business through marine conservation. Active contributor to organizational development of policy positions on fisheries issues at the federal and interstate levels.

Coastal Conservation Association – North Carolina (CCANC)
Executive Board Member January 2014—January 2020, Fisheries Committee Member April 2013—January 2020, Fisheries Committee Chairman February 2015—December 2017

Voting board member, promoting the conservation and sustainable management of inshore fisheries and coastal resources in North Carolina. Developed policy statements on recreational, commercial, and resource management issues for communication with state and federal management agencies, stakeholders, and the public

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Scientific Collaborator with the American Saltwater Guide Association
Participated and helped organize multiple data collection programs organized by ASGA including false albacore tagging and genetic sampling and testing of new app-based data collection for valuable east coast fisheries. 2022-present. Worked on a joint multi-year ASGA and The Nature Conservancy Atlantic Bonito telemetry tagging study 2025-present.

Federal and State Fishery Advisory Panels

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
- Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee Member, September 2017—Jan. 2020
- Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee Member, February 2017—Jan. 2020
- Joint Enforcement Agreement working group member, June 2016

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Bluefish Advisory Panel, May 2015—present

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Electronic For-hire Logbook Field Tester, May 2016—2018
- Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel, March 2017—2021
- Citizen Science Advisory Panel Communication and Outreach Action Team, June 2017—2019
- System Management Plan Workgroup March 2018—2021

Invited Presenter, Data and Management Strategies for Recreational Fisheries with Annual Catch Limits
Committee meeting in support of study convened by the National Academies of Science, September 2020

Graduate, Gulf of Maine Research Institute Marine Resources Education Program – Southeast
- Fisheries Science Workshop, completed May 2017
- Fisheries Management Workshop, completed November 2017

HONORS AND AWARDS

2022 Governors Award Marine Conservationist of the Year
Awarded by the North Carolina Wildlife Federation · Sep 2022

EDUCATION
Bachelor of Arts, 2003 • English and History
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

INDUSTRY QUALIFICATIONS
- U.S. Coast Guard Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel (OUPV) license holder
- North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries licensed for-hire operator
- South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council permitted for-hire operator, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Grouper Snapper Complex and Dolphin/Wahoo fisheries
- National Marine Fisheries Service permitted Highly Migratory Species (HMS) for-hire operator

BRANDY RAE CARLTON

[redacted]

Federal Fishery Management Council Nomination

I am a North Carolina coastal business owner, consultant, and active participant in the recreational fishing community, with a strong interest in responsible fisheries management, marine conservation, and the long-term sustainability of coastal communities.

My husband owns Reel Tease Outdoors, a local, family-owned and operated fishing and outdoor retail business on the Atlantic Beach Causeway in North Carolina. I am actively involved, sharing responsibility for staying informed about fisheries laws, regulations, rules, management decisions, and proposed changes. We engage customers in educational conversations about how these matters affect anglers, fishing businesses, and coastal communities.

Our family fishes offshore for marlin, sailfish, and mahi-mahi and participates in coastal fishing and seafood harvesting involving flounder, shrimp, scallops, and crab. Our family participates annually in the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament, strengthening our connection to North Carolina's offshore recreational fishing community. My husband owns an offshore fishing vessel and is pursuing his U.S. Coast Guard captain's license, with plans to establish a charter business serving offshore anglers. Through the shop, our knowledge and conversations extend beyond the species we personally pursue.

My husband and I operate four businesses, giving us firsthand experience with coastal commerce, tourism, recreation, and local economic development. We prioritize supporting local businesses, and Reel Tease Outdoors purchases locally whenever practical. I also own and operate Hive & Helm, a local hospitality company that connects visitors with fellow small businesses offering locally sourced products, services, and coastal experiences, including inshore and offshore fishing charters, recreational boating, sightseeing tours, and sunset cruises. These relationships support our coastal economy and broaden our understanding of how tourism, marine recreation, and fisheries management intersect.

I also own Nature's Way Counseling & Consulting. My consulting background has strengthened my ability to listen to different perspectives, evaluate concerns, and communicate complex information thoughtfully. I do not automatically favor one industry or stakeholder group over another; I believe sound decisions require scientific evidence, applicable laws and regulations, and consideration of both conservation needs and the practical consequences for communities.

I recognize that fisheries are influenced by far more than fishing practices alone. Water quality, coastal development, habitat preservation, pollution, recreational boating, tourism, and changing environmental conditions all affect marine ecosystems. Effective management requires examining these interconnected influences rather than placing responsibility on any single group.

I would be honored to be considered for the opportunity to serve on a federal fishery management council. I recognize the responsibility such a position carries and would approach it with an open mind, a willingness to listen and learn, and a commitment to evaluating issues from multiple perspectives. My goal would be to contribute thoughtful, informed judgment that respects scientific evidence, supports responsible conservation, and considers the long-term interests of our marine resources and the diverse communities and industries that depend upon them.

Christopher G. Kimrey

Mr. Kimrey was enlisted in the United States Navy for 6 years and served as an electronics technician for 5 years, before being honorable discharged due to a service-connected injury. He graduated with honors from Carteret Community College in 2003 with an associate in arts. He is a PADI Certified Rescue Diver and licensed U.S. Coast Guard Captain (OUPV).

Mr. Kimrey has owned and operated Custom Saltwater Taxidermy, creating replicas of fish for customers worldwide since 1997. For the past 19 years he has been a full-time saltwater fishing guide and owner and operator of Mount Maker Charters. Mr. Kimrey has completed the first of 2 sessions of the Marine Resource Education Program with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and is scheduled to complete the 2nd session in the near future (delayed due to COVID-19).

Mr. Kimrey was recently reappointed to the SAFMC Snapper/Grouper Advisory Panel for his third term and is currently Chair of the Advisory Panel after serving as Vice-Chair for one year. He as been an active participant in several tagging projects with N.C. State University, and N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, which included a 3-year acoustic tagging project of Cobia and a 5-year anchor tagging project with weakfish as well as several other cooperative fisheries research programs. He was an active participant in the software pilot program for the For-Hire South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Pilot Project. He has attended various public forums at the State and Federal level pertaining to Marine Fisheries.

Mr. Kimrey has a life-long history of recreational and commercial fishing and a vast knowledge of saltwater fisheries. Many years of following State and Federal fisheries management plans, while spending 200+ days annually on the water gives him a unique and unbiased desire to pursue the conservation of our fisheries.

Michael R. Oppegaard

Mr. Oppegaard is a native of Topsail Beach, North Carolina, and a graduate of Topsail High School and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. His family owned the Sound Pier until its sale in 2004 and has spent his entire life on the water.

In 2012, he founded Native Son Guide Service, Inc., a nearshore/inshore fishing guide service that targets red drum, black drum, flounder, speckled trout, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, black sea bass, sheepshead, cobia, bonito, false albacore, and sharks. He is passionate about sharing his love of fishing with others and is committed to providing his clients with the best possible fishing experience.

Mr. Oppegaard is also actively involved in the management of North Carolina's fisheries. He currently serves on the NC Marine Fisheries Commission's Southern Regional Advisory Committee and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel. He also served on the NC Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee and the MAFMC Management Strategy Evaluation for Summer Flounder as a Core Stakeholder. He is committed to working with other stakeholders to ensure the sustainable management of our fisheries for future generations.

E. Jot Owens

Capt. Jot Owens has been in the Southeast North Carolina Fishing industry for over thirty years. Capt. Jot began his fishing career when he was just fourteen years old working at a local fish market and commercial fishing. Commercial fishing included Clamming, Shrimping, Tuna (Blackfin, Bluefin and Yellowfin), Grouper and King Mackerel fishing (Outer Banks to Cape Fear, NC). Jot fished many inshore and offshore tournaments over the years from the Outer Banks to the Florida Keys. In 1995, Jot started as a mate on local charter fishing boats out of Wrightsville Beach, NC. Today, Capt. Jot has managed to translate his lifetime passion for fishing and guiding into his own charter business which he began in 1999 with a USGC Captains License 100-ton six-pack. Guiding for Cobia, King & Spanish Mackerel, Flounder, False Albacore, Grouper, Red drum, Sharks, Speckled trout, and Tarpon. Capt. Jot is one of the very few local native guides of Southeast North Carolina. He is also a Federal and State of North Carolina Finfish Tagger, April 2003 – present Tagging for conservation and scientific research of Cobia, Flounder, Redfish, Speckled Trout, Striped Bass and Sharks.

Capt. Jot is a member of the PENN fishing tackle, Berkley Fishing and Spiderwire's Elite Pro Staff as well as on the research, development, and test team for these companies. He is also honored to be partnered with these great outdoor companies as well MirrOlure, YETI coolers, Power-Pole, Plano, Frabill, Betts Cast-nets, Garmin Marine, SiriusXM Marine, Eagle Claw/Trokar hooks and Smith Optics.

Capt. Jot has been featured on TV shows; Flats Class TV with C.A. Richardson, The World of Saltwater with George Poveromo, Bob Redfern's Outdoor Magazine, National Geographic Wild's (NATGEO) and ESPN's Saltwater Connection. Capt. Jot has been featured in hundreds of fishing magazine articles in Sport Fishing magazine, NC Sportsman magazine and SC Sportsman magazine just to name a few. Capt. Jot is a regular speaker on the Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar series with George Poveromo, as well hosting his own inshore fishing school.

Fisheries organizations and boards:

-Cape Fear River Striped Bass Foundation-To re-establish and maintain the Cape Fear River Fishery, 2008-present

-Tournament Director/Guide Chair for the Cape Fear River Watch Striped Bass Tournament to raise money and awareness in the fish restoration of the Cape Fear River system, 2008-2020

-Saltwater Angler & Sportsman (E-magazine) - Board of Directors 2014-present

-Cape Fear River Watch Board of Directors, 2008-2021

-NCDMF Striped Bass FMP Advisor 2021

-WQ4F (Water Quality for Fisheries) Industry Working Group-Water Quality for Fisheries 2021-2022

-North Carolina Sea Grant Advisory Board-Representing Recreational anglers and Charter (Guides) interest, 2009-2019

-StriperFest Director-Directed all committees for highest grossing fundraiser for Cape Fear River Watch, 2015.

-South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's System Management Plan Workgroup. 2024-present.

-South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Cobia/Mackerel Advisory panel. 2025-present.

Ms. Anna Beckwith

Ms. Beckwith holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Florida International University in Miami, FL and a M.S. degree in Biological Oceanography with a Minor in Geographic Information Science from N.C. State University in Raleigh, NC.

Ms. Beckwith is currently serving in her first term on the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council. She serves as vice chair of the HMS committee and is the liaison to the SAFMC.

Ms. Beckwith served three consecutive terms on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Her last term ended August 2021. On the SAFMC she serves as an at-large seat and was chair of the Dolphin/Wahoo, and Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Committees. As Chair of the HMS Committee she also serves on the HMS Advisory Panel for the National Marine Fisheries Service and the ICCAT Advisory Committee. She attended the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) 2014, 2015 and 2016 annual meeting as part of the U.S. delegation. Ms. Beckwith has also served as liaison to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council on numerous occasions. Ms. Beckwith has also served as a Council representative on King Mackerel, Cobia, Blueline Tilefish and Red Snapper stock assessments.

Ms. Beckwith served on the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission from 2009 to 2015, serving as Vice-Chair from 2011 to 2015.

Ms. Beckwith owns Down East Guide Service, a North Carolina recreational fishing guide service and international travel agency for sport fisherman specializing in Costa Rica and Argentina. She is the managing partner of Dragin Fly Sportfishing based out of Los Suenos Marina Costa Rica.

Prior to 2007 Ms. Beckwith taught Environmental Science and Biology at the high school level and sixth, seventh and eighth grade science in eastern North Carolina. She was a research consultant (post-graduate work) from 2004 through 2006 monitoring red drum spawning habitat using passive acoustics, water quality, and egg/larval monitoring in the Neuse River Estuary, Pamlico River, Pamlico Sound and Ocracoke Inlet.

Previous to pursuing her graduate degree Ms. Beckwith was employed as Program Manager (1999-2001) for the American Farmland Trust in Washington, DC and was a marine fellow for The Nature Conservancy (1999).

Anna Barrios Beckwith

Experience

8/2007 – current Down East Guide Service/Dragin Fly Sport fishing
Title: President
Assure smooth operation of North Carolina and Costa Rican operations.

8/2024 – 8/2027 Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Title: At Large Voting Member
Vice Chair of the HMS committee and liaison to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

8/2012 – 8/2021 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Title: At Large Voting Member
Chair of Dolphin/Wahoo, and HMS Committees. As Chair of the HMS Committee, I also served on the HMS advisory panel for NMFS and on the ICCAT Advisory Committee (*Currently still serving as an advisor*). I attended the ICCAT 2014, 2015 and 2016 annual meeting as part of the US delegation. I also served as a Council representative on King Mackerel, Cobia, Blueline Tilefish and Red Snapper stock assessments. As council liaison to the Gulf of Mexico and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils I typically attended their meetings one per year per council.

7/2009 – 7/2015 NC Marine Fisheries Commission Morehead City, NC
Title: At Large Voting Member (Vice Chair)
Served on the Habitat and Water Quality, Coastal Habitat Protection Plan, joint MFC/WRC Coastal Recreational Fishing License and the Finfish and Shellfish/Crustacean committees.

8/2006 – 8/2007 Christ the King H.S. New Bern, NC
Title: Science Teacher
Taught Environmental Science and Biology.

8/2005 – 8/2006 Tiller Middle School Morehead City, NC
Title: Science Teacher
Taught sixth, seventh and eight grade science.

5/2004 – 8/2006 Consultant/Self-employed Morehead City, NC
Title: Research Consultant
Monitor red drum spawning habitat in the Neuse River Estuary, Pamlico River, Pamlico Sound and Ocracoke Inlet of North Carolina using passive acoustics, water quality and egg/larval sampling techniques.

5/2002 – 5/2004 North Carolina State University Raleigh, NC
Title: Research Assistant
Identified red drum spawning habitat in the Neuse River Estuary of North Carolina using passive acoustics, water quality, and egg/larval monitoring

8/2001 – 5/2003 North Carolina State University Raleigh, NC
Title: Teaching Assistant
Instructed laboratory-based classes in Oceanography, Earth System Science, and Biology.

9/1999 – 7/2001 American Farmland Trust Washington, DC

Title: Program Manager

Responsibilities included managing multiple policy initiatives, advocating for increased federal funding of conservation programs, organizing a grass roots policy network, assisting regional offices with state campaigns, and coordinating initiatives with partner organizations including "Keep America Growing", a network of interagency and non-governmental organizations focused on urban and suburban land use issues, and a partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors leading to "Town Meets Country: Farm-City Forum on Land and Community". These forums brought urban, suburban, and rural leaders into discussions on smart growth issues throughout the country.

5/1999 – 8/1999 The Nature Conservancy Key West, FL

Title: Lattner Marine Fellow/Coastal Initiative Program

Responsibilities focused on identifying appropriate wastewater treatment options and possible funding sources for upgrades of failing systems in the Florida Keys and dissemination to local community and assisted in advocacy efforts for funding in Washington, DC.

Education

8/2001 – 8/2004 North Carolina State University Raleigh, NC

- Masters of Science in Biological Oceanography.
- Minor in Geographic Information Science.
- Graduated Summa Cum Laude.
- Honors included: NCSU Sea Grant Fellowship, PADI Foundation Grant, NCSU Marine Department "Excellence in Teaching" award.
- Activities included: Treasurer of the Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Graduate Association.

8/1995 – 5/1999 Florida International University Miami, FL

- Bachelors of Science in Environmental Science and Policy.
- Minor in Biology.
- Graduated Cum Laude.
- Honors included: Lattner Fellowship to work with The Nature Conservancy, FIU Departmental "Excellence in Academic Achievement" award, FIU Departmental "Excellence in Service to the Environment" award, Florida Undergraduate Scholarship, University Scholarship, Dean's list 7 (of 8) semesters.
- Activities included: Marine Mammal Rescue Unit (officer), Marine Animal Rescue Society (volunteer and organizer), Golden Key National Honor Society (Director of Environmental Activities), and Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society.

Languages and Certifications

- Spanish: Spoken (Excellent), Written (Well). First generation Cuban America.
- N.C. SPI Teaching License Middle Grades Science (6-9)

Stuart Creighton

Mr. Creighton graduated from NC State University with a BS in Meteorology and received his secondary education certification from Campbell University before completing a 25-year career as a high school science educator in North Carolina. During his career, he had experience teaching the full spectrum of science classes from fundamental Earth Science to AP Physics. In semi-retirement, he currently serves as a property manager in Oriental, a town with which he has had a lifelong connection. Mr. Creighton has been a passionate recreational fisherman on the Neuse River throughout his life, and, because of that passion, he has become very active in current fishery management issues.

His activity began in 2015 when he became a regular attendee and public speaker at the quarterly Marine Fisheries Commission meetings. Mr. Creighton has served as the CCA NC Fisheries Committee Chairman since 2020 and is also a Vice President of the CCA State Board. His responsibilities in this role included keeping current on state and federal issues, examining data to determine pending management problems, and writing content on what management measures are necessary to correct them. Mr. Creighton was hired as CCA NC's Eastern Regional Director in March of 2025. In addition to continuing advocacy on important fisheries issues, he is now responsible for chapter development, fundraising, and new member recruitment. Content creation is also an important component of this position with respect to the various parts of this position.

In addition to his work with CCA NC, Mr. Creighton has served as an Advisory Committee member for the NC Estuarine Striped Bass and NC Spotted Sea Trout Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). He is also a Southern Flounder Advisory Committee member that will help with the development of Amendment 5 to the NC Southern Flounder FMP.

Over the past decade, Mr. Creighton has fished up and down the North Carolina coast, exploring the different fisheries available from Weldon to Wrightsville Beach. He is very well studied on the challenges that are present at both the state and national level and will work hard to make sure that our marine resources are not only conserved, but rebuilt, so that everyone may continue to use them responsibly.

William Gorham

Mr. Gorham is the former owner of Bowed Up Lures, a fishing lure manufacturer based in Dare County, North Carolina. Through his work serving anglers across the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, he developed extensive knowledge of recreational fisheries and the challenges facing coastal communities.

Mr. Gorham has been actively involved in both state and federal fisheries management for several years. He served as a proxy for North Carolina's Legislative Appointee to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and was a member of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Mackerel-Cobia Advisory Panel and Citizen Science Advisory Panel.

He was also selected to participate throughout the SEDAR 58 Cobia Stock Assessment process, contributing stakeholder perspectives during each phase of the assessment.

In addition to his advisory roles, Mr. Gorham has assisted with stakeholder outreach and public education on a variety of fisheries management proposals. He has also contributed to multiple grant proposals and supported data collection efforts for fisheries research projects conducted by North Carolina State University and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS).

Through his experience as a business owner, fisheries advocate, advisor, and research collaborator, Mr. Gorham brings a practical, science-informed perspective to fisheries management and conservation.