



NC Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Amendment Update

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Division of Marine Fisheries

Casey Knight | Marine Fisheries Commission | November 19-20, 2020





Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP)

Origin and Purpose

G.S. 143B-279.8 - Fisheries Reform Act of 1997

- Required Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to draft the plan
- Required the Environmental Management (EMC), Coastal Resources (CRC), and Marine Fisheries (MFC) commissions to approve and implement recommendations

Purpose

- Long-term enhancement of coastal fisheries by addressing habitat and water quality needs of fishery species



Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP)

Four Overarching Goals

- Improve effectiveness of existing rules and programs protecting coastal fish habitats
- Identify, designate and protect strategic habitat areas
- Enhance habitat and protect it from physical impacts
- Enhance and protect water quality

2021 Amendment Process



- Select priority habitat issues



- Draft issue papers



- Build support for proposed actions



- Revise and approve CHPP




- Implement recommended actions



2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan

Timeline



Action	Quarter	MFC	CRC	EMC
<i>Provide CHPP background, implementation progress, and process for 2021 amendment</i>	Fall 2019	Nov 15	Nov 20	Nov 14
<i>Provide background on SAV, Compliance, and I&I issue papers</i>	Summer 2020	Aug 20-21	Sep 9	Sep 10
<i>Provide update on timeline</i> 	Fall 2020	Nov 19-20	Nov 18-19	Nov 18-19
<i>Present background on Wetlands and Habitat Monitoring issue papers</i>	Winter 2021	Feb 17-19	Feb 17-18	Mar 10-11
<i>Provide update on revision status</i>	Spring 2021	May 19-21	Jun 9-10	May 12-13
<i>Present entire draft amendment; ask to take out for public comment (action item)</i>	Summer 2021	Aug 25-27	Sep 15-16	Sep 8-9
<i>Review public comments received; ask for final plan approval (action item)</i>	Fall 2021	Nov 17-19	Nov 9-10	Nov 17-18
<i>Present public friendly short plan for outreach purposes</i>	Spring 2022			

2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan

Completed Issue Papers



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- ✓ Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) protection and restoration, with focus on water quality improvements
- ✓ Environmental rule compliance to protect habitat and water quality



2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan

Issue Papers Underway

- Reducing inflow and infiltration (I&I) associated with wastewater infrastructure to improve coastal water quality
- Wetland protection and enhancement with focus on nature-based methods
- Habitat monitoring to assess status and regulatory effectiveness



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Questions?