



**NOVEMBER 2020**  
**MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Meeting via WebEx  
November 19-20, 2020**

Due to COVID-19, the commission held a two-day business meeting via WebEx webinar on November 19-20. 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://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/mfc/mfc-meetings/mfc-november-2020/Chairman-s-Report-Package.pdf>

The briefing book, presentations and audio from this meeting can be found at: <https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/mfc/mfc-meetings/mfc-november-2020/November-2020-Briefing-Book.pdf>

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

**BUSINESS MEETING - MOTIONS AND ACTIONS**

On November 19 at 9 a.m. Chairman Rob Bizzell called the meeting to order and reminded commissioners of their conflict of interest and ethics requirements.

The following commission members were in attendance: Rob Bizzell-Chairman, Mike Blanton, Doug Cross, Tom Hendrickson, James Kornegay, Robert McNeill, Dr. Martin Posey Tom Roller and Sam Romano.

**Motion by Sam Romano to approve the meeting agenda with the omission of the small mesh gill net issue paper.**

**Second by Mike Blanton.**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson		X		
James Kornegay		X		
Robert McNeill		X		
Dr. Martin Posey		X		
Tom Roller		X		

Sam Romano	X			
Chairman Rob Bizzell		X		

**Motion fails 3-6**

**Motion by Sam Romano to approve the agenda with the omission of the vote on small mesh gill net options.**

**Second by Mike Blanton**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay		X		
Robert McNeill		X		
Dr. Martin Posey		X		
Tom Roller		X		
Sam Romano	X			
Chairman Rob Bizzell		X		

**Motion fails 4-5**

**Motion by Tom Roller to approve the agenda.**

**Second by Robert McNeill**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton		X		
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay	X			
Robert McNeill	X			
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller	X			
Sam Romano		X		
Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			

**Motion carries 7-2**

**Motion by Pete Kornegay to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2020 meeting minutes.**

**Second by Martin Posey**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay	X			
Robert McNeill	X			
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller	X			
Sam Romano	X			
Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			

**Motion carries unanimously**

**Public Comment Period**

A public comment session was held beginning at 9:30 a.m. The following individuals registered to speak during the public comment session:

**Bill Gorham:** Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Gorham was unable to speak during the public comment session.

**David Sneed,** Executive Director of the Coastal Conservation Association North Carolina, stated CCA NC was disappointed in that there was no option to remove small mesh statewide. We saw no data about what removal of these nets would mean on the economy and the well-being of striped bass and other species. The Commission should have been presented with the data on what removal of nets completely from our estuarine waters would mean to the recovery of troubled fish species that continue to be overfished and their recovery handicapped by the continued cryptic mortality from our gill net fisheries. There is also no plan for dealing with the impact from latent commercial fishing licenses. How can the Commission properly manage the gill net fisheries when they do not have a complete picture of the impacts due to unreported catch from 60% of SCFL holders? The Division staff concludes their report with, “The DMF’s Gill Net Work Group requests that the MFC provide substantive feedback on the identified issues and potential management actions for

further development and refinement. The Work Group acknowledges that the list of issues identified is not exhaustive and that other issues may arise through discussion by the MFC.” The Commission should use this opportunity to consider the removal of all nets from our inshore waters to aid in the recovery of our troubled fish stocks. Of the stated goals of this exercise, it would be the most efficient and direct way to address, 1) the streamlining and simplification of the rules that regulate small mesh gill nets, (2) the reduction of bycatch, (3) greater flexibility with managing harvest of quota managed fisheries, and (4) eliminating conflict between gill net users and other stakeholders. Regarding federal council appointments, CCA NC continues to oppose former division employees over representatives of the fishing public.

**Chris Elkins**, representing CCA, it was disappointing to see the lack of small mesh gill net options from the division that included complete removal of the gear statewide as well as an analysis of the ecologic and biologic impacts of a removal. He recommends DMF do this study before going further down this road. The recovery of striped bass and gill nets are linked. The presence of gill nets is incompatible with the expansion of striped bass to historical numbers and their geographic range. Gill nets should be phased out from the Albemarle Sound except for the blue catfish fishery. Gill nets should be phased out from the CSMA to include the striped bass historic ranges. For the Central Region it would be east of the tie down line to be determined. For the Southern region, the new line would be below the city of Wilmington to be determined. We need better stock assessments. They are only as good as the input data and despite the competent, hardworking, and underpaid biologists and staff at DMF, you cannot make a purse out of a sow’s ear. Without a total account of effort by latent licenses, the data are inadequate. Using data from the observer program which does not represent various fisheries, results in unrepresented data. Taken together, stock assessments underestimate harvest, dead discards, and interaction with protected species. Until this is resolved the decline of our public trust resources will continue.

### **Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Bizzell stated that the letters and online comments are in the briefing book for review. Commissioners were reminded they are required to take ethics training within six months of their appointment and every two years thereafter. Commissioners were also reminded of the annual requirement to submit a Statement of Economic Interest form by April 15 to the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement.

It was determined the 2021 meeting schedule would be:

Feb. 17-19

May 19-21

Aug. 25-27

Nov. 17-19

It is possible the February 2021 meeting may also be conducted via WebEx due to COVID 19.

Chairman Bizzell pointed to the Commission Committee Assignments in the briefing book.

Chairman Bizzell reminded the commission of their ethical duty and when they observe someone in their peer group breaking laws and not following the rules, they have an obligation to report it.

### **Committee Reports**

Chris Batsavage gave a verbal overview of the Nominating Committee meeting that took place on October 16 to consider slates of nominees for the North Carolina seats on the Federal Fisheries Management Councils.

**Motion by Martin Posey to approve the following nominees for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large seats:**

#### **South Atlantic**

- **Jess Hawkins, retired fisheries manager, educator, and ecotour operator from Morehead City**
- **Chris Kimrey, charter boat captain from Morehead City**
- **Bob Lorenz, recreational angler and scuba diver from Wilmington**
- **Tom Roller, charter boat captain from Beaufort**

#### **Mid-Atlantic**

- **Sara Winslow, retired fisheries biologist and manager from Hertford and the current N.C. at-large member on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**
- **Anna Beckwith, guide service owner from Morehead City**
- **Bill Gorham, fishing lure manufacturer owner from Southern Shores**

**Second by Doug Cross**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay	X			
Robert McNeill	X			
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller			X	
Sam Romano			X	
Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			

**Motion carries 7-0 with 2 abstentions. Commissioner Roller abstained from the discussion and vote on this issue.**

### **Director's Report**

Division of Marine Fisheries Director Steve Murphey provided the commission with an update on division activities occurring since the November 2020 business meeting, including:

- An update on the impacts of COVID-19 on DMF operations and planning.
- An update on the CARES Act Fisheries Economic Relief Program including an update on the number of applications distributed by DMF, the number received so far, and next steps in the process.
- A status report on the Hurricane Florence funding. Currently DMF proposal is under review by NOAA and then the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Once final approval is received, the plan will be implemented.
- A review of the small mesh gill net issue, including the two pronged approach laid out by the director during the February 2020 meeting, that included the use of proclamation to address yardage of small mesh nets and attendance which was completed in March of 2020, and a longer process to develop an information paper to inform rulemaking by the commission. Made specific requests of the MFC for consideration during the gill net discussions.
- Provided an update on Southern Flounder regulation in other states and the Southern Flounder Satellite Tagging work currently underway and funded by the CFRF.
- An overview of staff accomplishments, appointments, publications and new hires and retirees.

### **Small Mesh Gill Net Rules Modification Information Paper**

Steve Poland, the Division's Executive Assistant for Councils and Kathy Rawls, the Division's Fisheries Management Section Chief, gave a presentation on the small mesh gill net rules modification information paper. He provided an overview of the process and presented each of the four issues along with a list of options developed by DMF. The four issues developed by the DMF are: 1) Implement yardage limits for small mesh gill nets <4 inch inside stretch mesh; 2) Modify attendance requirements south of Albemarle Sound; 3) Specify when nets may be used and where they may be set; and 4) Modify the minimum allowable mesh size of gill nets. In addition to presenting the issues and associated options, he requested specific feedback from the MFC including input on options to further develop or remove, to provide additional options for consideration, and to provide prioritization for rule making.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/11-2020-mfc-meeting/presentations/1-Small-Mesh-Gill-Net-Rules-Modification.pdf>

**Issue: Implement yardage limits for small mesh gill nets <4 inch Inside Stretch Mesh (ISM)**

**Motion by Doug Cross to not pick a preferred option at this time, and that we ask DMF to address this issue from split geographical areas, that the specific needs in each of these areas so far as gear and gear amounts, including gill nets and hook and line, be looked at, and to look at gear amounts that are species specific regarding to each fishery, and to ask for a recommendation from stakeholder groups that include both commercial and recreational users.**

**Second by Mike Blanton**

**Motion amended by Doug Cross to not pick a preferred option at this time, that we ask the DMF to give us data on what gear and the amounts of gear are actually being used at directed species now commercially and a direct correlating data on the recreational fishery from the same areas.**

**Second by Mike Blanton**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay			X	
Robert McNeill		X		
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller		X		
Sam Romano	X			
Chairman Rob Bizzell		X		

**Motion carries 5-3 with one abstention**

**Issue: Modify attendance requirements south of Albemarle Sound**

**Motion by Tom Roller to select options 4, 8, and 9 as the preferred management options.**

**Second by Robert McNeill**



**Motion by Martin Posey to amend the previous motion by adding option 2 to the list.  
 Motion accepted as friendly amendment by Tom Roller and Robert McNeill**

**Motion as amended: to select options 2, 4, 8, and 9 as the preferred management options.**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross		X		
Mike Blanton		X		
Tom Hendrickson		X		
James Kornegay	X			
Robert McNeill	X			
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller	X			
Sam Romano		X		
Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			

**Motion carries 5-4**

**Motion by Mike Blanton to add an option for Dec. 1-April 30 exception to any statewide attendance requirement.**

**Second by Sam Romano**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay		X		
Robert McNeill		X		
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller		X		
Sam Romano	X			
Chairman Rob Bizzell			X	

**Motion carries 5-3 with one abstention.**

**Issue: Specify when nets may be used and where they may be set**

**Motion by Tom Roller to consider options 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8 as preferred management.**

**Second by Pete Kornegay**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross		X		
Mike Blanton		X		
Tom Hendrickson		X		
James Kornegay	X			
Robert McNeill	X			
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller	X			
Sam Romano		X		
Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			

**Motion carries 5-4**

**Motion by Doug Cross to consider option 7 as preferred management.**

**Second by Tom Hendrickson**

**Motion by Mike Blanton to amend the previous motion to add an option for an exemption to set time requirements from Dec. 1-April 30.**

**Motion accepted by Doug Cross and Tom Hendrickson.**

**Amended motion: to consider option 7 as preferred management and to add an option for an exemption to set time requirements from Dec. 1-April 30.**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay			X	
Robert McNeill		X		
Dr. Martin Posey	X			

Tom Roller		X		
Sam Romano	X			
Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			

**Motion carries 6-2 with one abstention**

**Issue: Modify the minimum allowable mesh size of gill nets**

**Motion by Mike Blanton to keep all four options as preferred management.**

**Second by Pete Kornegay**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay	X			
Robert McNeill	X			
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller	X			
Sam Romano		X		
Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			

**Motion carries 8-1**

**Issue: Implement yardage limits for small mesh gill nets <4 inch Inside Stretch Mesh (ISM), continued**

**Motion by Sam Romano to send all the options for all the issues to advisory committees for input, with preferred measures from the MFC indicated.**

**Second by Doug Cross**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			

James Kornegay	X			
Robert McNeill	X			
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller	X			
Sam Romano	X			
Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			

**Motion carries unanimously**

**Motion by Tom Roller to consider options 8 and 9 for the yardage limits.**

**Second by Robert McNeill**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross		X		
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay	X			
Robert McNeill	X			
Dr. Martin Posey		X		
Tom Roller	X			
Sam Romano		X		
Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			

**Motion carries 6-3**

**Motion by Mike Blanton to add an option for an exemption to yardage limits up to 2,000 yards that may be addressed by proclamation from Dec. 1-April 30.**

**Second by Sam Romano**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay		X		
Robert McNeill		X		
Dr. Martin Posey	X			

Tom Roller		X		
Sam Romano	X			
Chairman Rob Bizzell		X		

**Motion carries 5-4**

**Gear Restrictions as a Management Tool for Artificial Reefs in State Ocean Waters Information Paper (SMZs)**

Jason Peters, the Division’s Enhancement Program Supervisor, gave a presentation on High Efficiency Gear Restrictions on Artificial Reefs in State Ocean Waters Information Paper (SMZs). He provided an overview of the issue and provided the MFC with two management options for consideration

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/11-2020-mfc-meeting/presentations/2-Gear-Restrictions-as-a-Management-Tool-for-Artificial-Reefs-in-State-Ocean-Waters.pdf>

**Motion by Tom Roller to begin the rulemaking process to protect all species from highly efficient gear on state ocean artificial reefs.**

**Second by Martin Posey**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross		X		
Mike Blanton			X	
Tom Hendrickson		X		
James Kornegay	X			
Robert McNeill	X			
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller	X			
Sam Romano		X		
Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			

**Motion carries 5-3 with one abstention**

**Prohibiting Repacking of Foreign Crab Meat in North Carolina Issue Paper**

Shannon Jenkins, the Division’s Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality Section Chief gave a presentation on the Prohibiting Repacking of Foreign Crab Meat in North Carolina Issue Paper. This included an overview of the issue in general and the management options and associated proposed language for rulemaking.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/11-2020-mfc-meeting/presentations/3-Prohibiting-Repacking-of-Foreign-Crab-Meat-in-North-Carolina-Issue-Paper.pdf>

**Motion by Doug Cross to choose option 2 on the crab meat repacking issue, as listed: Adopt MFC Rule 15A NCAC 03L .0210 that would prohibit the repacking of foreign crab meat. Also amend references to foreign crab meat in MFC Rules 15A NCAC 18A .0136 and .0173.**

**Second by Tom Hendrickson**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay	X			
Robert McNeill	X			
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller	X			
Sam Romano	X			
Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			

**Motion carries unanimously**

**Coastal Habitat Protection Plan**

Commissioner Posey, chair of the CHPP Steering Committee, provided comments from the October 26<sup>th</sup> CHPP Steering Committee meeting. This is the year that we are revising the CHPP for the five-year plan. Habitats are essential for juveniles and this is the procedure to help coordinate various agencies within DEQ to help protect the habitat and enhance some of these critical early stages. Due to the complex nature of the issue papers being developed requiring increased coordination and review between agencies, the CHPP timeline has been extended for a few additional months which will be discussed during the forthcoming presentation. Review of the amendments will still be completed within the statutory required five-year time frame at the end

of 2021. A wetlands workshop series was held virtually, this included three virtual meetings bringing together the technical community to provide input and guidance focusing on mapping and monitoring, threats conservation, and restoration and living shorelines. Many good ideas came of the workshops. A wetlands protection and restorations issue paper along with reducing inflow infiltration, water quality, and habitat issue papers are in the process of being drafted and reviewed. They will be presented to the CHPP Steering Committee with recommendations in late winter/early spring and will eventually come to the various commissions for comment and later approval. The Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Protection Plan and Restoration Issue Paper recommendations were reviewed and edited by the division directors. Three presentations were given at the last CHPP Steering Committee to provide the commissioners background to several issues.

Casey Knight, the Division's Coastal Habitat Biologist, gave a presentation on the 2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Development.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/11-2020-mfc-meeting/presentations/5-Coastal-Habitat-Protection-Plan.pdf>

### **2019 Landings Overview**

Brandi Salmon, the Division's License and Statistics Section Chief gave a presentation on the 2019 North Carolina Landings and Harvest Trends.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/11-2020-mfc-meeting/presentations/4-2019-Landings-Overview.pdf>

### **Fishery Management Plans**

Corrin Flora, the Division's Fishery Management Plan Coordinator provided a status update of ongoing FMPs which included southern flounder, shrimp, estuarine striped bass, spotted seatrout, and striped mullet.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/11-2020-mfc-meeting/presentations/6-FMP-Status-Update.pdf>

### **Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3 Update**

Mike Loeffler and Anne Markwith, the Division’s Southern Flounder staff leads provided an update on the continued development of Amendment 3. They provided an overview of the recent Southern Flounder FMP AC workshops, and reviewed the potential management strategies and measures, as well as the timeline moving forward.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/11-2020-mfc-meeting/presentations/7-Southern-Flounder-Development-of-Amendment-3-Update.pdf>

**Motion by Robert McNeill to consider commercial/recreational allocations in the Southern Flounder FMP Amendment 3 of 70/30, 65/35, 60/30 with 10% allotment for gigging, 60/40, and 50/50.**

**Second by Tom Roller**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay			X	
Robert McNeill	X			
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller	X			
Sam Romano			X	
Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			

**Motion carries 7-0 with 2 abstentions**

**Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Update**

Yan Li, the Division’s Stock Assessment Scientist, an overview on the evaluation of Central Southern Management Area Striped Bass Stocks in North Carolina. She reviewed the data collection methods, a summary of analyses used to evaluate this stock, and provided research recommendations.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/11-2020-mfc-meeting/presentations/9-Evaluation-of-Central-Southern-Management-Area--CSMA--Striped-Bass-Stocks-in-North-Carolina--2020.pdf>



Laura Lee, the Division’s Senior Stock Assessment Scientist, and Charlton Godwin, the Division’s Striped Bass FMP Co-Lead, gave a presentation on the assessment of the Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River Striped Bass in North Carolina. This included the

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/11-2020-mfc-meeting/presentations/9-Evaluation-of-Central-Southern-Management-Area--CSMA--Striped-Bass-Stocks-in-North-Carolina--2020.pdf>

Commissioner Kornegay gave a verbal presentation on a 10-year prescription for recovery of the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Striped Bass stock.

To listen to the presentation, go to Nov. 20 Meeting Audio 2:26:31 time stamp:

<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/marine-fisheries-commission/marine-fisheries-commission-meetings#quarterly-business-meeting---november-19---20,-2020>

**Rulemaking Update**

Catherine Blum, the Division’s Rulemaking Coordinator, presented information and updates on the 2020-2021 rulemaking cycle. She also provided a preview for the upcoming 2021-2022 Rulemaking Cycle.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/11-2020-mfc-meeting/presentations/10-Rulemaking-Update.pdf>

**Motion by Tom Hendrickson to approve readoption of 15A NCAC .3401-.3407 as published in the *N.C. Register*, per G.S. 150B-21.3A.**

**Second by Martin Posey**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay	X			
Robert McNeill	X			
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller	X			
Sam Romano	X			

Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			
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**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Rule Suspensions**

Kathy Rawls, the Division’s Fisheries Management Section Chief provided a presentation on the NC Marine Fisheries Commission Rule Suspensions.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/11-2020-mfc-meeting/presentations/11-Rule-Suspensions.pdf>

**Motion by Martin Posey to approve the continued suspension of portions of rule 15A NCAC 03M .0301 (b)(2) and (3)(A)(B) King Mackerel.**

**Second by Tom Hendrickson**

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>				
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Doug Cross	X			
Mike Blanton	X			
Tom Hendrickson	X			
James Kornegay	X			
Robert McNeill	X			
Dr. Martin Posey	X			
Tom Roller	X			
Sam Romano	X			
Chairman Rob Bizzell	X			

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Issues from Commissioners**

Commissioner Romano stated that the email he sent the night before the meeting was regarding diamondback terrapins was a result of experiments this summer that were performed with researcher, Amanda Willard featuring two excluder designs. Would like to get some feedback and would like to use the new designs in the upcoming season. Kathy Rawls will have Dan Zapf reach out to Commissioner Romano regarding a meeting.

Commissioner Roller stated that he spoke with staff about crab pot clean up and wanted to reiterate his interest. Regarding the Southern Flounder Amendment, he is curious if there will be any mechanisms to create different licenses or permits because of the misuse of latent licenses. He asked when North Carolina will be implementing the use of circle hooks for striped bass in the Atlantic Ocean.

**Meeting Assignments and Preview of Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Lara Klibansky reviewed the meeting assignments and previewed the Feb. MFC business meeting agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

DRAFT