

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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LETTERS & ONLINE COMMENTS

NC CATCH

REAL LOCAL SEAFOOD

WWW.NCCATCH.ORG

PO Box 188 • 30 Oyster Creek Road, Swan Quarter, NC 27885 • info@nccatch.org

April 15, 2021

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

Dear North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission members,

On behalf of NC Catch, a nonprofit working to educate the public about the benefits of eating local, North Carolina seafood, thank you for your efforts to manage for sustainable fisheries resources to benefit all North Carolina citizens, including seafood consumers.

The NC Catch board greatly appreciates your February 2021 decision to not further restrict shellfish aquaculture operations in high-use areas, opting instead to see how recently passed rules regarding shellfish lease activities affect potential social conflicts over water use. NC Catch believes it is important to have both wild harvest and aquaculture businesses in North Carolina to supply shellfish to consumers, protect water quality and provide marine habitat.

Our organization also appreciates the commission's efforts in fall of 2020 initiating rulemaking to make it illegal in North Carolina to repack imported crab meat and label it as a domestic product. It is very important for consumers in North Carolina to know that the seafood they purchase is the product as advertised, especially if it is conveyed as being a local product, caught by local fishermen and fisherwomen.

Thank you again for your efforts regarding these matters.

Best regards,



Barabara Garrity-Blake,
NC Catch Board President

From: [Klibansky, Lara](#)
To: [Gillikin, Dana](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Re: Atlantic Croaker
Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 7:00:03 AM

Lara K. J. Klibansky
Marine Fisheries Commission Liaison
Executive Assistant for Councils and Commissions
NC Division of Marine Fisheries
Department of Environmental Quality



252 515 6020 mobile (direct)
252 726 7021 main office
Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov

P.O. Box 769
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

Email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties

From: Bizzell, Rob <r.bizzell.mfc@ncdenr.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:46 PM
To: Klibansky, Lara <Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [External] Re: Atlantic Croaker

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Jack [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:45 PM
To: Bizzell, Rob; Kornegay, K; Hendrickson, Tom; McNeill, Robert; Posey, Martin H; Cross, Doug; Blanton, Mike; Roller, Thomas N; Romano, Sam
Subject: [External] Re: Atlantic Croaker

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

I know you are all aware of the bycatch, but I wanted to take the time and share this video with you to refresh your memory. This is where our croaker are, and this is what needs to be addressed. <https://youtu.be/WLl4GSZLqGU>

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 30, 2021, at 4:17 PM, Jack Jackson [REDACTED] wrote:

Good afternoon,

I see a proclamation has posted with recreational limits to Atlantic croaker. While 50 is a very liberal limit, I have to question what is being done about the commercial sector? Is there going to be a proclamation with commercial limits? Furthermore, what about all of the croakers that are dying as bycatch in the inshore shrimp trawl fishery? I think the writing is on the wall, if we are truly interested in preserving a fishery shrimp trawls need to be removed from our rivers and sounds.

Thank you for you time,
Anthony Jackson

From: [Klibansky, Lara](#)
To: [Gillikin, Dana](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Southern Flounder
Date: Thursday, April 1, 2021 10:21:21 AM

For May...

Lara K. J. Klibansky
Marine Fisheries Commission Liaison
Executive Assistant for Councils and Commissions
NC Division of Marine Fisheries
Department of Environmental Quality



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From: Bizzell, Rob <r.bizzell.mfc@ncdenr.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 10:21 AM
To: Klibansky, Lara <Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [External] Southern Flounder

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From: Kim [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 9:02 AM
To: Bizzell, Rob
Subject: [External] Southern Flounder

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.<<mailto:report.spam@nc.gov>>

Dear Commissioner Bizzell,

The vote yesterday on the southern flounder allocation was very disappointing. This appears to be another delaying tactic that further supports the commercial sector. For too many years, the MFC has demonstrated an ongoing bias that favors the commercial fishery and ignores the recreational fisherman. Our marine fishery continues to suffer so that a handful of commercial fishermen make a few dollars.

Respectfully,

Kim Tavasso

Sent from my iPad



**NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

COMMISSIONERS

ROY COOPER
Governor

DIONNE DELLI-GATTI
Secretary

ROB BIZZELL
Chairman

MIKE BLANTON
Elizabeth City
DOUG CROSS
Grantsboro
TOM HENDRICKSON
Zebulon
PETE KORNEGAY
Camden

DR. MARTIN POSEY
Wilmington
ROBERT McNEILL
Wilmington
TOM ROLLER
Beaufort
SAM ROMANO
Wilmington

March 11, 2021

Miriam Sutton
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Sutton:

On behalf of the commission and the division, we sincerely thank you for your service to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee. Thank you for sacrificing your time and providing your valuable input to help the Marine Fisheries Commission effectively manage the marine resources of our state.

We appreciate your continued involvement in the process as a member of the public by attending commission and advisory committee meetings and providing your thoughts on fisheries management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Robert Bizzell".

W. Robert Bizzell, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
John Batherson
Lara Klibansky
Corrin Flora
Jason Rock
Chris Stewart
Dan Zapf



EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

Public Servants must complete the Ethics and Lobbying Education program provided by the N.C. State Ethics Commission within **six months** of their election, appointment, or employment. We recommend that this be completed as soon as possible, but the training must be repeated every two years after the initial session.

Since Adobe Flash was terminated on December 31, 2020, our online program is not available. A new and shorter online program will be available in the near future. The new program will be compatible with portable devices such as phones and tablets.

Live webinar presentations are being offered monthly and registration information for the live presentations can be found [here](#). These presentations are about 90 minutes long and give you the opportunity to ask questions of the speaker.

For questions or additional information concerning the Ethics Education requirements, please contact Dottie Benz at (919) 389-1383.

2020 STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST REMINDERS:

Completed SEIs must be filed on or before April 15, 2020. If you have already filed a 2020 SEI, do not refile. The forms and instructions can be found at <https://ethics.ncsbe.gov/sei/blankForm.aspx>.

If you filed a 2019 SEI **and** you have had **no changes** since your 2019 filing, you may file a 2020 SEI No Change Form, located on the website.

You must file a 2020 Long Form if any of the following apply to you:

- a. You filed a 2019 SEI **but** you have had changes since your 2019 filing;
- b. You did not file a 2019 SEI; or
- c. You are a first-time filer or have been appointed to a new or additional position/board.

This year, the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement will roll out a new electronic process for filing SEIs. That electronic filing option will be available in **early February**.

You are encouraged to file your SEI electronically. However, if you want to file your SEIs before the updated electronic version is available, hard copies are available for filing now at the link above.

New commissioners will need to file a 2020 SEI; however, if you have not had any changes since you last filed, you can use the No Change Form, which is fairly easy to complete.

Please file by April 15th to avoid fines and other penalties.

SEI HELPFUL TIPS

1. PUBLIC RECORDS. The State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement (State Board) is required to collect and maintain disclosures from certain persons covered by the State Elections and Ethics Enforcement Act Government Ethics Act (Elections and Ethics Act). By law, the information requested is public record and available to the public upon request. As public records, Statements of Economic Interest (SEI) are available on the Commission's website. Personal contact information, however, is not.

2. CONTACT INFORMATION PAGE. The Contact Information page, which includes your personal contact information, will not be available on the Commission's website, but is a public record.

3. CHILDREN'S INITIALS. Only list minor children's INITIALS on the SEI. List each child's full legal name on the Confidential Unemancipated Children's Form. If you are filing electronically, the form will be generated at the end of the SEI from the information that you provided on your electronic SEI. The Confidential Form is not a public record, and the State Board will not make it available to the public.

4. READ EACH QUESTION CAREFULLY. Read each question carefully and pay close attention to the time periods in each question as they do vary.

5. ANSWER EACH QUESTION. It is important to answer each question, including all applicable subparts. Even if your answer is "no" or "not applicable," make certain you answer each question. Many of the questions have "yes" and "no" boxes to check for your convenience. Incomplete SEIs may cause delays and negatively impact your public service on a covered board or as an employee.

6. WHY ARE YOU FILING. You must list the complete name of the state board or state agency employer for which you are filing the SEI. Without this information, your SEI may be delayed and negatively impact your public service on a covered board or as an employee.

7. HOW TO FILE. The State Board strongly recommends electronic on-line filing as it is secure, allows easy information updates, and gives you access to your electronic SEIs previously filed. Filing your SEI on-line is easy, quick, convenient, and reduces the chance of reporting errors. Getting started is easy. Follow the simple steps to create your own account and get access today: <https://EFILE.ncsbe.gov/> To file a paper version of the SEI, you must provide the State Board with a signed, original SEI form. Each SEI includes an "affirmation" and is a legally binding document. Faxed or emailed copies of your SEI CANNOT be accepted.

SEI Helpful Tips, continued

8. INCOME. List each source of income as requested on the SEI. The actual dollar amount is not required. Be sure to list your employer as a source of income in Question # 6 of the SEI.

9. READ CAREFULLY. Read each question carefully, as the Elections and Ethics Act requires that you disclose your financial holdings and obligations, personal property, and real property and may also include your knowledge of the holdings of both your immediate family and your extended family. "Immediate family" and "extended family" are defined terms in the Elections and Ethics Act, and those definitions are included with this document.

10. REFLECT. Think carefully about WHY you are filing, and whether it has any relationship to your position. Does your board or commission license or regulate you? For many of the boards, a subject matter expert like a licensee is needed. Answering "yes" does not prohibit your service on the board, and your perspective is valued.

11. MAKE A COPY. Make a copy of the SEI for your own records, and make a note in your calendar when you submit it, whether on-line or by mail or hand delivery. When you successfully submit your SEI electronically on-line, the final screen will provide a confirmation number and will be proof that you have satisfied your filing obligation. Please print the **confirmation screen for your records.**

12. ETHICS LIAISON. Contact your Ethics Liaison to assist you in your obligations under the Elections and Ethics Act. Your Ethics Liaison is good source of information about how to fill out your SEI.

13. ON-LINE HELP. The State Board has on-line resources to answer questions you may have about your SEI. For more information, please visit the State Board website which has education offerings.

14. DEFINITIONS. As noted above, certain terms are defined in the Elections and Ethics Act (“immediate family”). These definitions may be helpful to you in completing your SEI. A complete list of all definitions used in the Elections and Ethics Act is available on the State Board’s website, under “Ethics”. Some of the more common ones are attached to this document.

15. YOUR INTERNET BROWSER. Consider using Internet Explorer or Chrome to submit your SEI. Some users have had trouble using other browsers. **16. WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU.** In addition to on-line resources and written materials, the State Board has expert staff ready to answer any questions you might have and assist you in completing and filing your SEI. Do not hesitate to contact us at sei@ncsbee.gov (919) 814-3600.

2021 Meeting Planning Calendar

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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31						

February						
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March						
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April						
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August						
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September						
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October						
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November						
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December						
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- MFC
- ASMFC
- SAFMC
- MAFMC
- ASMFC/MAFMC Joint Meeting
- State Holiday

- Southern Regional AC
- Northern Regional AC
- Joint Regional AC
- Finfish AC
- Habitat and Water Quality AC
- Shellfish/Crustacean AC
- Finfish/Shellfish/Crustacean AC

2021 Committee Assignments for Marine Fisheries Commissioners

FINFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statutorily required standing committee comprised of commissioners and advisers that considers matters related to finfish.

Commissioners: Tom Roller – chair, Sam Romano – vice chair

DMF Staff Lead: Lee Paramore - lee.paramore@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Can meet quarterly, depending on assignments from MFC

HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE & COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

Statutorily required standing committee comprised of commissioners and advisers that considers matters concerning habitat and water quality that may affect coastal fisheries resources.

Commissioners: Pete Kornegay – chair, Dr. Martin Posey – vice chair

DMF Staff Lead: Anne Deaton - anne.deaton@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Committee can meet quarterly, depending on assignments from MFC. CHPP Steering Committee can meet a couple of times a year.

SHELLFISH/CRUSTACEAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statutorily required standing committee comprised of commissioners and advisers that considers matters concerning oysters, clams, scallops and other molluscan shellfish, shrimp and crabs.

Commissioners: Sam Romano – chair, Pete Kornegay – co-vice chair, Dr. Martin Posey – co-vice chair

DMF Staff Lead: Tina Moore - tina.moore@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Can meet quarterly, depending on assignments from MFC

CONSERVATION FUND COMMITTEE

Committee comprised of commissioners that makes recommendations to the MFC for administering funds to be used for marine and estuarine resources management, including education about the importance of conservation.

Commissioners: Sam Romano - chair, Tom Hendrickson and Robert McNeill

DMF Staff Lead: Randy Gregory - randy.gregory@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CIVIL PENALTY COMMITTEE

Statutorily required committee comprised of commissioners that makes final agency decisions on civil penalty remission requests.

Commissioners: Rob Bizzell - chair, Doug Cross and Tom Hendrickson

DMF Staff Lead: Col. Carter Witten – carter.witten@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee consisting of the three recreational seats and the science seat to provide the DMF advice on the projects and grants issued using Coastal Recreational Fishing License trust funds.

Commissioners: Pete Kornegay – chair, Rob Bizzell, Tom Roller, and Robert McNeill

DMF Staff Lead: Jamie Botinovch - jamie.botinovch@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Committee comprised of commissioners that makes recommendations to the MFC on at-large and obligatory nominees for the Mid- and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils.

Commissioners: Robert McNeill – chair, Pete Kornegay, Tom Roller and Mike Blanton

DMF Staff Lead: Chris Batsavage - chris.batsavage@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Typically meets once a year

STANDARD COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE ELIGIBILITY BOARD

Statutorily required three-person board consisting of DEQ, DMF and MFC designees who apply eligibility criteria to determine whether an applicant is eligible for a SCFL.

Commission Designee: Mike Blanton

DMF Staff Lead: Marine Patrol Capt. Garland Yopp – garland.yopp@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets two to three times a year, could need to meet more often depending on volume of applications

N.C. COMMERCIAL FISHING RESOURCE FUND COMMITTEE

Committee comprised of commissioners that the commission has given authority to make funding decisions on projects to develop and support sustainable commercial fishing in the state.

Commissioners: Doug Cross – chair, Mike Blanton and Sam Romano

DMF Staff Lead: William Brantley – william.brantley@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets two to three times a year

WRC/MFC JOINT COMMITTEE ON DELINEATION OF FISHING WATERS

Committee formed to help integrate the work of the two commissions as they fulfill their statutory responsibilities to jointly determine the boundaries that define North Carolina's Inland, Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters as the agencies go through a statutorily defined periodic review of existing rules.

MFC Commissioners: Rob Bizzell, Dr. Martin Posey and Pete Kornegay

DMF Staff Lead: Anne Deaton - anne.deaton@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

SHELLFISH CULTIVATION LEASE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Three-member committee formed to hear appeals of decisions of the Secretary regarding shellfish cultivation leases issued under G.S. 113-202.

MFC Commissioners: Rob Bizzell

DMF Staff Lead: Jacob Boyd – jacob.boyd@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

The CHPP Steering Committee, which consists of two commissioners from the Marine Fisheries, Coastal Management and Environmental Management commissions reviews and approves the plan, recommendations, and implementation actions.

MFC Commissioners: Dr. Martin Posey, Pete Kornegay

DMF Staff Lead: Anne Deaton – anne.deaton@ncdenr.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed



COMMITTEE REPORTS



ROY COOPER
Governor

DIONNE DELLI-GATTI
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

February 23, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

FROM: William Brantley, Grants Program Manager, Administrative and Maintenance Services Section

SUBJECT: February 12, 2021 Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Committee Meeting

Issue

The N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Funding Committee met jointly with the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Committee at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 12, 2021 on Webex to receive a presentation on the Committee funded Sea Grant Commercial Fishing Economic Impact Analysis study, as well as vote on recurring DMF projects funding by the Committees.

Findings

The joint committees reviewed and approved a third year of the DMF Commercial Fishery Statistics Project, as well as the third year of the DMF Disease and Pathology: Research and Monitoring Project.

[Meeting minutes](#) are located in the MFC Briefing Materials.

Action Needed.

For informational purposes only, **no action is needed at this time.**



ROY COOPER
Governor

DIONNE DELLI-GATTI
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Commercial Resource Fund Committee and the Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund

FROM: William Brantley, Grants Program Manager
Division of Marine Fisheries, NCDEQ

DATE: February 23, 2020

SUBJECT: MFC Commercial Resource Fund Committee and Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Meeting Minutes

The MFC Commercial Resource Fund Committee and the Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund met at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 12, 2021 through Webex. The following attended:

MFC Commercial Resource Fund Committee: Chairman Doug Cross, Sam Romano, Mike Blanton

Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Members: Chairman Ernest Doshier, Glenn Skinner, Steve Weeks, Britton Shackelford, and Doug Todd.

Absent: Gilbert Baccus

Public Comment: Public comment was received through webpage and US mail

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chairman Doug Cross called the meeting to order for the MFC Commercial Resource Fund Committee and inquired to any conflicts of interest. Chairman Ernest Doshier called the meeting to order for the Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund. Chairmen Cross and Doshier asked Brantley to read the conflict of interest reminder, then they individually inquired to any conflicts of interest. None were noted. Brantley conducted a roll call for both Committees. All members were present from the MFC Commercial Resource Fund Committee. For the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Committee, all members were present with the exception of Baccus.

The meeting agenda was then reviewed.

Motion by Weeks to approve the agenda. Second by Skinner. Motion passed unanimously through a roll call vote of present members.

Motion by Romano to approve the agenda. Second by Blanton. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes from the October 27, 2020 MFC Commercial Resource Fund (CRF) Committee meeting and the Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund were reviewed.

Motion by Romano to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2020 meeting. Second by Blanton. Motion passed unanimously through roll call vote.

Motion by Skinner to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2020 meeting. Second by Blanton. Motion passed unanimously through roll call vote.

Brantley briefed the committees on points from Session Law 2020-3 and gave a brief elaboration on the agenda items

Brantley also stated that public comment for the meeting had been accepted by mail and webpage, and comments received were included in the member's meeting packets.

DMF RECURRING PROJECTS

Commercial Fishery Statistics Program - \$56,459

Chairmen Cross and Doshier opened the floor to discussion on the DMF Commercial Fishery Statistics project that has been funded by the Commercial Fishing Resource Fund over the past two years. This project is to Maintain compliance with North Carolina General Statutes 113-169.3, 113-168.2, 113-169.2, 113-170.3 and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0114 by allocating funds to the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Trip Ticket Program. Brantley noted that the budget had been reduced this year through alternative funding sources, due to discussion at previous meetings regarding the Fund covering staff positions.

Motion by Romano to approve the DMF CFRF Statistics project for year 3. Second by Blanton. Motion passed unanimously through roll call vote.

Motion by Skinner to approve the DMF CFRF Statistics project for year 3. Second by Todd. Motion passed unanimously through roll call vote of present members.

Disease and Pathology: Research and Monitoring - \$25,000

Chairmen Cross and Doshier opened the floor to discussion on the DMF Disease and Pathology: Research and Monitoring program that has been funded by the Commercial Fishing Resource Fund over the past two years. This program has not had any expenditures in the past, and works as a retainer to make funds available to the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries in order to collect, prepare, and send samples to a designated pathology facility, part for the facility's expert analysis and report of findings.

Motion by Blanton to approve funds for the DMF CFRF Pathology project. Second by Romano. Motion passed unanimously through roll call vote.

Motion by Skinner to approve funds for the DMF CFRF Pathology project. Second by Weeks. Motion passed unanimously through roll call vote of present members.

GRANT UPDATES

DMF Southern Flounder Satellite Tagging Project

Shelby White (DMF) and Mike Loeffler (DMF) gave a short update on the Southern Flounder Satellite Tagging Project. Satellite tagging occurred in three primary areas during Fall 2020: eastern Albemarle Sound, Frisco, and Harker's Island. All one hundred satellite tagged flounder were obtained from pound nets and had total lengths of 20 inches or greater. Each satellite tagged fish also received a high reward conventional spaghetti tag, so there's potential for additional recapture information if the high reward tag is reported. In addition to satellite tagging fish in 2020, DMF also released over 500 conventional spaghetti tags. In 2021, DMF plans to release an additional 100 satellite tags across the South Atlantic (from NC to NE Florida). After discussion, Brantley noted that he would reach out to Committee members for potential questions, and try to coordinate with White and Loeffler for another update at the next meeting.

GRANT FINAL REPORTING

NC Sea Grant Economic Impact of North Carolina's Wild-caught Commercial Fishing Industry Presentation

Led by North Carolina Sea Grant with partners at four universities, to include UNC-Wilmington, Appalachian State University, NC State University, and Duke University; the research team provided a presentation of the research funded by the NC Commercial Fishing Resource Fund. Principal investigators on the grant discussed individual sections of the research, and opened the floor to discussion and questions by the joint Committee members.

Dr. Harrison noted that information discussed during the meeting could also be found at this hyperlink: <https://go.ncsu.edu/ncseafooddemand>.

DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC RELATIONS PROJECT MATERIAL

Brantley noted that topic was requested as an agenda item at the October 2020 meeting, in lieu of continuing outside requests and public comment. Brantley noted that the Committees may want to consider a process for fair and equitable consideration for usage. Chairman Cross discussed legal issues that may occur with usage. Weeks cited copyright concerns, and stated that he agreed the information should be able to be disseminated, but had concerns about misuse of the material. DMF Deputy Director Lupton joined the call, and noted that the MFC's Committee had an attorney that Chairman Cross may want to consider requesting an opinion on a process to review requests for project material and usage. Chairman Cross asked for agreeance from Chairman Doshier that the MFC's attorney be brought in for a corridor to reviewing requests, which Chairman Doshier concurred. Weeks agreed that the joint Committees needed an opinion from the Attorney General's office on what they can do on letting other groups use the project material. Chairman Cross would ask for a stated opinion from the MFC attorney for moving forward.

ISSUES FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Shackelford discussed constraints on commercial fishermen due to sea turtles, as well as predation of juvenile and commercially viable finfish. Another issue of potential concern for Committee involvement was sturgeon, which plays into effect of large mesh gillnets.

Doshier discussed cormorants, and a WRC study that was ongoing on the species. WRC does know future research opportunities, but the Committees may wish to reach out to WRC to assist with the research.

Blanton asked for an update on the projects approved from the RFP. Brantley stated that about half of the contracts had been fully executed.

Romano discussed diamondback terrapin, and asked for a conversation at the next meeting to discuss with the Committees, potentially bringing in the UNC-W staff that are on the grant funding in October 2020. He had questions about his design of the bycatch reduction gear, and if it may/may not already be a viable option under DMF criteria. Romano wanted to ensure the Committees and industry were forward-thinking in their actions that could affect diamondback terrapin.

Chairman Cross asked for continuous bycatch studies, and especially in the shrimp trawl industry. He cited the need to determine the actual percentage of Pamlico Sound and tributaries that are actually worked through trawling.

Skinner discussed the marketing proposal, and asked for thoughts on a wild-caught seafood conference. Brantley noted he would take this concept, and others, to compile into an RFP at a later date to present to the Committees. This would give the Committees an opportunity to make sure the projects met the Strategic Plan and legislative intent.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Blanton to adjourn. Second by Romano. Motion passed unanimously through roll call vote.

Motion by Skinner to adjourn. Second by Todd. Motion passed unanimously through roll call vote of present members.

Meeting adjourned.

WB