## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

2021 PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE

COMMISSION COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS



## LETTERS

GILL NETS

#### SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES

MFC AC

# **GILL NETS**

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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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: Monday, July 27, 2020 2:38 PM
To: Klibansky, Lara <Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [External] Please stop gill netting

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From: Tina Roberts
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 2:31 PM
To: Bizzell, Rob
Subject: [External] Please stop gill netting

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Myself along with several friends enjoy fishing whenever we can get out on the water. But, we are unhappy with gill netting in our great state of North Carolina. We have seen that gill nets kill almost everything that swims into the net, including birds, turtles, dolphins, etc... Just think about how many gill nets are used and how many discards are killed. Me and my friends are recreational anglers but we love this earth and want future generation to love it too. How we manage our fisheries needs to change. Lets take the first steps together and ban gill nets.

respectfully,

Tina Roberts



## **SPECIAL** MANAGEMENT ZONES



ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

STEPHEN W. MURPHEY Director

March 1, 2019

Gregg Waugh Executive Director South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201 North Charleston, SC 29405

Dear Gregg,

North Carolina has one of the most extensive artificial reef programs in the country consisting of 68 estuarine, nearshore and ocean reefs, and sanctuaries. Of these, the North Carolina Artificial Reef Program maintains 30 artificial reef sites in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the coast of North Carolina. Nearshore and ocean reef sites are located from one-half mile to 38 miles from shore and are situated so they can be reached from every maintained inlet in the state. This proximity creates an opportunity for high exploitation of the fishery resources aggregated by these reefs.

The first Fishery Management Plan for Snapper and Grouper in the South Atlantic recognized the potential negative impacts on the relative abundance of fish by "exceptional gears" in and around these sites. The plan established a mechanism by which states could request special management zones with specific gear restriction around their artificial reefs in the EEZ to mitigate the negative affects highly efficient gears could have on the aggregated resource. Gears that could be considered exceptional commonly used in the EEZ off of North Carolina include black seabass pots, sink nets, and bandit gear. The catch per unit effort of these gears are high and have the potential to remove large amounts of aggregated snapper and grouper species from these sites, disproportionately affecting access to other anglers.

To ensure equitable access to the fishery resource around these reefs to all user groups, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries requests that the South Atlantic Fishery Management council designate 30 artificial reefs within the EEZ off of North Carolina as Special Management Zones. Gear restrictions in the zones should include the prohibition of fishing with any gear other than handline, rod and reel, and spearfishing gear. Additionally, the Division requests that the harvest and possession of snapper and grouper with spearfishing gear be limited to the recreational bag limits for those species.

The Division believes designating artificial reefs as Special Management Zones with the preceding restrictions will increase opportunities for anglers by reducing the potential impact restricted gears can have on the relative abundance of snapper and grouper species. By limiting allowable gears to handline, rod and reel, and spearfishing gear, fishery removals will be moderated and allow for greater access by anglers if increasing effort occurs. Additionally, limiting spearfishing gear to the lower recreational limits of snapper grouper species may mitigate some of the biological concerns for the resource that arise when species with complex and social life histories are selectively harvested. Numerous snapper and grouper species have reproductive strategies that include complex social structures predicated on large individuals

controlling reproduction by out competing others for spawning and maintaining harems. If numerous large individuals within a group are removed, it may take considerable time for the social group to restructure affecting reproductive success. Spearfishing gear has the potential to selectively remove large individuals from a reef and by limiting removals to the recreational limits lessons the chance that the complex community structure on the site is affected.

A restriction on gear types may also benefit certain species listed and protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). As part of the federal permitting process for reef construction, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Protected Resources Division (NOAA PRD) provides consultation on potential impacts to ESA listed species in North Carolina. NOAA PRD has raised derelict fishing gear as a point of particular concern for many species, highlighting the possibility of entanglement or entrapment. In recent consultations, the Division has been asked to detail its plans for mitigating these impacts presented by artificial reefs. By limiting allowable gears at artificial reef sites, dereliction of gear may become less likely and less frequent, therefore minimizing possible impacts to ESA listed species. The proposed restrictions support the Division's mission of reef enhancement for the benefit of many target species, including snapper and grouper.

Thank you for consideration of this request. To facilitate moving forward with review and expected regulatory amendment development, attached are corner coordinates and artificial reef site names for thirty artificial reefs located in the EEZ off of North Carolina. The Division would also request that during the review and development of Council actions that there be three public hearings in North Carolina to receive input on the proposed designation. Please do not hesitate to contact the Division should you need additional information or clarification.

We look forward to assisting in the fulfilment of this request.

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Murphey, Director

SM/sp/jp

#### Appendix

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 Table A1. Artificial reef sites in the EEZ off of the coast of North Carolina. Reef sites are the area within the boundary delineated by the corresponding four corner coordinates.

Artificial Reef Site	North-W	est corner	North-Ea	ast corner	South-Ea	ist corner	South-We	est corner
Name	Lat.	Long.	Lat.	Long.	Lat.	Long.	Lat.	Long.
AR-130	36°0'N	75°32.09'W	36°0.43'N	75°31.49'W	35°59.94'N	75°31.51'W	35°59.95'N	75°32.11'W
AR-140	35°57'N	75°32.07'W	35°56.98'N	75°31.47'W	35°56.48'N	75°31.49'W	35°56.5'N	75°32.1'W
AR-145	35°54.27'N	75°24.18'W	35°54.26'N	<b>75°2</b> 3.57'W	35°53.76'N	75°23.59'W	35°53.78'N	75°24.2'W
AR-220	35°8.63'N	75°41.21'W	35°8.6'N	75°40.01'W	35°7.61'N	75°40.05'W	35°7.64'N	75°41.26'W
AR-225	35°7.02'N	75°39.61'W	35°7.01'N	75°39.01'W	35°6.51'N	75°39.03'W	35°6.53'N	75°39.63'W
AR-230	35°6.39'N	75°43.22'W	35°6.37'N	75°42.62'W	35°5.88'N	75°42.64'W	35°5.89'N	75°43.24'W
AR-250	34° <b>5</b> 7.15'N	75°55.15'W	34°57.14'N	75°54.55'W	34°56.65'N	75°54.57'W	34°56.66'N	75°55.17'W
AR-255	34°55.74'N	75°58.2'W	34°55.72'N	75°57.6'W	34°55.23'N	75°57.62'W	34°55.24'N	75°58.22'W
AR-285	34°33.64'N	76°26.64'W	34°33.62'N	76°26.04'W	34°33.13'N	76°26.06'W	34°33.14'N	76°26.66'W
AR-300	34°18.77'N	76°24.42'W	34°18.76'N	76°23.83'W	34°18.26'N	76°23.84'W	34°18.28'N	76°24.44'W
AR-302	34°10.52'N	76°13.99'W	34°10.51'N	76°13.4'W	34°10.01'N	76°13.41'W	34°10.02'N	76°14.01'W
AR-305	34°16.94'N	76°38.94'W	34°16.92'N	76°38.35'W	34°16.43'N	76°38.36'W	34°16.44'N	76°38.96'W
AR-330	34°34.14'N	76°51.85'W	34°34.12'N	76°50.66'W	34°33.13'N	76°50.68'W	34°33.15'N	76°51.88'W
AR-340	34°34.57'N	76°58.64'W	34°34.56'N	76°58.04'W	34°34.07'N	76°58.05'W	34°34.08'N	76°58.65'W
AR-345	34°32.55'N	76°58.76'W	34°32.54'N	76°58.16'W	34°32.05'N	76°58.17'W	34°32.06'N	76°58.77'W
AR-355	34°21.43'N	77°20.29'W	34°21.43'N	77°19.7'W	34°20.93'N	77°19.71'W	34°20.94'N	77°20.3'W
AR-362	34°15.97'N	77°30.71'W	34°15.96'N	77°30.12'W	34°15.47'N	77°30.13'W	34°15.47'N	77°30.72'W
AR-366	34°13.2'N	77°25.54'W	34°13.19'N	77°24.95'W	34°12.7'N	77°24.96'W	34°12.71'N	77°25.55'W
AR-368	34°9.82'N	77°26.13'W	34°9.81'N	77°25.53'W	34°9.32'N	77°25.54'W	34°9.32'N	77°26.13'W
AR-372	34°6.52'N	77°45.21'W	34°6.52'N	77°44.61'W	34°6.02'N	77°44.62'W	34°6.03'N	77°45.21'W
AR-376	34°3.53'N	77°39.93'W	34°3.53'N	77°39.33'W	34°3.03'N	77°39.34'W	34°3.04'N	77°39.93'W
AR-382	33°58.83'N	77°41.46'W	33°58.82'N	77°40.87'W	33°58.33'N	77°40.88'W	33°58.34'N	77°41.47'W
AR-386	33°57.77'N	77°33.69'W	33°57.76'N	77°33.1'W	33°57.27'N	77°33.11'W	33°57.27'N	77°33.7'W
AR-400	33°29.55'N	77°35.55'W	33°29.55'N	77°34.96'W	33°29.05'N	77°34.97'W	33°29.06'N	77°35.56'W
AR-420	33°51.3'N	78°7'W	33°51.3'N	78°6.41'W	33°50.8'N	78°6.42'W	33°50.8'N	78°7.01'W
AR-440	33°50.05'N	78°13.38'W	33°50.05'N	78°12.78'W	33°49.55'N	78°12.79'W	33°49.55'N	78°13.38'W
AR-445	33°45.03'N	78°14.39'W	33°45.03'N	78°13.8'W	33°44.53'N	78°13.81'W	33°44.54'N	78°14.4'W
AR-455	33°47.28'N	78°18.18'W	33°47.28'N	78°17.58'W	33°46.78'N	78°17.59'W	33°46.79'N	78°18.18'W
AR-460	33°50.34'N	78°22.32'W	33°50.33'N	78°21.72'W	33°49.84'N	78°21.73'W	33°49.84'N	78°22.32'W
AR-465	33°23.67'N	78°11.34'W	33°23.67'N	78°10.75'W	33°23.17'N	78°10.76'W	33°23.18'N	78°11.35'W







ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

June 3, 2020

Jamie Winslow

Dear Ms. Winslow:

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

COMMISSIONERS

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

I am pleased to welcome you as a member of the Northern Regional Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission.

The committee is comprised of 11 members representing the scientific, recreational, commercial, and conservation communities. Meetings usually last two or three hours, and are scheduled only when the commission refers an issue to the committee. Also, please be aware that advisers are required to attend at least 75 percent of the meetings of their committee.

Please find an orientation package enclosed. If you have any questions concerning your orientation to the advisory committee process, feel free to contact Dana Gillikin at <u>Dana.Gillikin@ncdenr.gov</u> or 252-808-8022.

Speaking for the Marine Fisheries Commission, I want to thank you for your interest in managing our state's resources. I look forward to seeing you at a meeting in the near future.

Sincerely,

2. Rober Byge

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

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission Lara Klibansky



**ROY COOPER** Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> **ROB BIZZELL** Chairman

June 3, 2020

James Rochelle, Jr.

Dear Mr. Rochelle:

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

**COMMISSIONERS** 

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WB/dg

Marine Fisheries Commission cc: Lara Klibansky



ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

June 3, 2020

Brian Atwell

Dear Mr. Atwell:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

Please visit the Division of Marine Fisheries website at <u>www.ncfisheries.net</u> for meeting schedules, proclamations, fisheries hot topics, and various fishing information. You may also contact Dana Gillikin at 252-808-8022 for meeting information.

Again, thank you for your interest in the conservation of our state's resources.

Sincerely,

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WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission Lara Klibansky

#### **COMMISSIONERS**

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



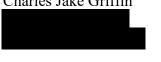
**ROY COOPER** Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> **ROB BIZZELL** Chairman

June 3, 2020

#### Charles Jake Griffin



Dear Mr. Griffin:

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WB/dg

Marine Fisheries Commission cc: Lara Klibansky

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



**ROY COOPER** Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> **ROB BIZZELL** Chairman

June 3, 2020

#### David Benson



Dear Mr.Benson:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

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WB/dg

Marine Fisheries Commission cc: Lara Klibansky

#### **COMMISSIONERS**

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



ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

June 3, 2020

#### David Lindsey



Dear Mr. Lindsey:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

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WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission Lara Klibansky MIKE BLANTON Elizabeth City DOUG CROSS Grantsboro TOM HENDRICKSON Zebulon PETE KORNEGAY Camden



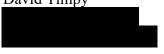
ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

June 3, 2020

#### David Timpy



Dear Mr.Timpy:

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WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission Lara Klibansky **COMMISSIONERS** 

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



ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

June 3, 2020

#### Felton Thompson

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

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WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission Lara Klibansky MIKE BLANTON Elizabeth City DOUG CROSS Grantsboro TOM HENDRICKSON Zebulon PETE KORNEGAY Camden

**COMMISSIONERS** 



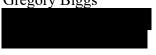
**ROY COOPER** Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> **ROB BIZZELL** Chairman

June 3, 2020

#### **Gregory Biggs**



Dear Mr. Biggs:

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Again, thank you for your interest in the conservation of our state's resources.

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WB/dg

Marine Fisheries Commission cc: Lara Klibansky

**COMMISSIONERS** 

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



ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

June 3, 2020

James Dale Hall

Dear Mr. Hall:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

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WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission Lara Klibansky MIKE BLANTON Elizabeth City DOUG CROSS Grantsboro TOM HENDRICKSON Zebulon PETE KORNEGAY Camden



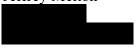
**ROY COOPER** Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> **ROB BIZZELL** Chairman

June 3, 2020

### Jeffrey Melton



Dear Mr. Melton:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

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Marine Fisheries Commission cc: Lara Klibansky

**COMMISSIONERS** 

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



ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

July 1, 2020

#### Jerry Clontz

Dear Mr. Clontz:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

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**COMMISSIONERS** 

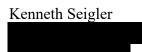


ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

June 3, 2020



Dear Mr. Seigler:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

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WB/dg

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#### **COMMISSIONERS**

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



ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

June 3, 2020

#### Randall Proctor

Dear Mr. Proctor:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

Please visit the Division of Marine Fisheries website at <u>www.ncfisheries.net</u> for meeting schedules, proclamations, fisheries hot topics, and various fishing information. You may also contact Dana Gillikin at 252-808-8022 for meeting information.

Again, thank you for your interest in the conservation of our state's resources.

Sincerely,

2. Rober Byge

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

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission Lara Klibansky MIKE BLANTON Elizabeth City DOUG CROSS Grantsboro TOM HENDRICKSON Zebulon PETE KORNEGAY Camden

**COMMISSIONERS** 



ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

June 3, 2020

#### Richard Johnson

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

**COMMISSIONERS** 

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

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

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Sincerely,

2. Rober Byge

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

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission Lara Klibansky



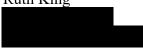
ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

June 4, 2020

Ruth King



Dear Ms. King:

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

**COMMISSIONERS** 

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

Your term on the Southern Regional Advisory Committee has expired and I would like to take this time to thank you for your service to the state of North Carolina. I encourage you to continue attending committee meetings as a member of the public.

Again, 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.

Sincerely,

2. Rober Byge

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

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission Lara Klibansky



ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

June 3, 2020

Timothy Feifs

Dear Mr. Feifs:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

Please visit the Division of Marine Fisheries website at <u>www.ncfisheries.net</u> for meeting schedules, proclamations, fisheries hot topics, and various fishing information. You may also contact Dana Gillikin at 252-808-8022 for meeting information.

Again, thank you for your interest in the conservation of our state's resources.

Sincerely,

2. Rober Byge

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

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission Lara Klibansky

#### **COMMISSIONERS**

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



ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

June 3, 2020

## Zacharie Hennard

Dear Mr. Hennard:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

Please visit the Division of Marine Fisheries website at <u>www.ncfisheries.net</u> for meeting schedules, proclamations, fisheries hot topics, and various fishing information. You may also contact Dana Gillikin at 252-808-8022 for meeting information.

Again, thank you for your interest in the conservation of our state's resources.

Sincerely,

2. Palar Bigel

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

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission Lara Klibansky MIKE BLANTON Elizabeth City DOUG CROSS Grantsboro TOM HENDRICKSON Zebulon PETE KORNEGAY Camden

**COMMISSIONERS** 



ROY COOPER Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN Secretary

> ROB BIZZELL Chairman

July 31, 2020

Ward Elis

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

**COMMISSIONERS** 

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

Dear Mr. Elis:

Thank you for your application to serve as an adviser to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission. Unfortunately, I am unable to appoint you to the committee at this time; however, please do not be discouraged from participating in the process as a member of the public. Your input is invaluable, and I encourage you to attend the committee meetings.

Please visit the Division of Marine Fisheries website at <u>www.ncfisheries.net</u> for meeting schedules, proclamations, fisheries hot topics, and various fishing information. You may also contact Dana Gillikin at 252-808-8022 for meeting information.

Again, thank you for your interest in the conservation of our state's resources.

Sincerely,

2. Rober Byc

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

WB/dg

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission Lara Klibansky



## **N@RTH CAROLINA** State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement

*Mailing Address:* P.O. Box 27255 Raleigh, NC 27611-7255

Phone: (919) 814-0700 Fax: (919) 715-0135

### Ethics & Lobbying Education

The following information applies to public servants, legislators, legislative employees, and ethics liaisons. For information on lobbying education and awareness presentations for lobbyists and lobbyist principals.

**Mandatory Education.** The N.C. State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement provides mandatory ethics and lobbying education for *public servants*, *legislators*, *legislative employees* and *ethics liaisons*. Topics covered include:

- Filing a Statement of Economic Interest ("SEI")
- Monitoring and avoiding conflicts of interest
- The gift ban and its exceptions
- Prohibition on use of public position for private gain
- Lobbying and how it affects individuals covered by the State Government Ethics Act

Ethics education is the primary way individuals subject to the State Government Ethics Act are made aware of their public duties and responsibilities as well as the consequences for violating the ethics laws.

### Who Must Participate

- **Public Servants & Ethics Liaisons.** All public servants and ethics liaisons are required to attend a Commission-approved basic ethics and lobbying education presentation within six (6) months of the person's election appointment, or employment and attend a refresher presentation at least every two (2) years thereafter.
- Legislators & Legislative Employees. The Commission, jointly with the Legislative Ethics Committee, makes mandatory ethics education and lobbying presentations to all legislators within two (2) months of the legislator assuming his or her office. Legislative employees must also participate in ethics education within three (3) months of employment and attend a refresher at least every two (2) years.
- Education Presentations & Schedule. Ethics and lobbying education presentations for public servants and ethics liaisons are offered online and live at Raleigh-only and distance education sites. Completing an online presentation or attending a live session meets either the basic or refresher mandatory education requirements. Visit <a href="https://www.ncsbe.gov/Ethics/Education">https://www.ncsbe.gov/Ethics/Education</a> to access online and live training options.

Ethics education for **legislators** is conducted in live sessions. Legislative employees may participate in ethics education online through the General Assembly.

• **Consequences for Failure to Attend.** Failure to attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation is a violation of the State Government Ethics Act and may result in the individual being recommended for removal from his or her public position or disciplined in his or her State job.

## Contact Information

For education related questions, contact: NC State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement Phone: (919) 814-3600 E-mail: Education.Ethics@doa.nc.gov

#### **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 <u>https://ethics.ncsbe.gov/sei/blankForm.aspx</u>.

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 <u>but</u> you have had changes since your 2019 filing;
- b. You did not file a  $201\overline{9}$  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 electronical 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 <u>sei@ncsbee.gov</u> (919) 814-3600.

#### 2020 Meeting Planning Calendar

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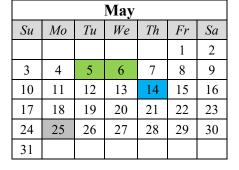
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ASMFC SAFMC MAFMC ASMFC/MAFMC Joint Meeting



Southern Regional AC Northern Regional AC Finfish AC Habitat and Water Quality AC Shellfish/Crustacean AC State Holiday

#### 2021 Meeting Planning Calendar

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ASMFC SAFMC MAFMC ASMFC/MAFMC Joint Meeting



Southern Regional AC Northern Regional AC Finfish AC Habitat and Water Quality AC Shellfish/Crustacean AC State Holiday

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#### 2020 Committee Assignments for Marine Fisheries Commissioners 08/05/2020

#### 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 - <u>chris.batsavage@ncdenr.gov</u> 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 – <u>garland.yopp@ncdenr.gov</u>

**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 – <u>william.brantley@ncdenr.gov</u> 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 - <u>anne.deaton@ncdenr.gov</u> 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 – <u>anne.deaton@ncdenr.gov</u> Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed