



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

January 22, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission
Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee

FROM: Coral Sawyer, Program Assistant
Marine Fisheries Commission Office

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Commission's Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee, January 9, 2025, to provide recommendations for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3.

The Marine Fisheries Commission's (MFC) Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee (AC) held a meeting on January 9, 2025, at the Department of Environmental Quality Washington Regional Office in Washington, North Carolina, and via webinar. AC members could attend in either setting to communicate with other committee members.

The following Advisory Committee members were in attendance in person: Mike Blanton, William Service, Mike Marshall, Brassai Mustin, Brett Wilson. The following members were in attendance online: Michael Hardison, Tim Willis. (Absent: Lauren Burch, Mary Sue Hamann, Bruce Morris, Brian Shepard)

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Staff: Jesse Bisette, Coral Sawyer, Brandi Salmon, Jeff Dobbs, Dan Zapf, Barbie Byrd, Kathy Rawls, Hope Wade, Jason Walsh, Colonel Carter Witten, Bennett Paradis, Lorena de la Garza, Joe Facendola, Jason Rock, Kristina Flanigan, Alan Bianchi, Officer Jonathan Morris, Officer Candace Rose.

Public: Lyle Cahoon, Claudia Cahoon, Christopher Cuthrell, Steve Migette, Lany Paul, Peyton Hassell, Dylan Bland, Chad M., Thomas "Eddie" Newman, Dale Newman, Larry Gill.

The Shellfish/Crustacean AC had seven members present at the start of the meeting and a quorum was met.

Shellfish/Crustacean AC Chair Mike Blanton called the meeting to order at 06:01 p.m. The full meeting recording can be viewed [here](#).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Tim Willis and seconded by Mike Marshall. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2024, and September 26, 2024, meetings was made by Tim Willis and seconded by Mike Marshall. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT EASTERN OYSTER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 5



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Eastern Oyster species leads Joe Facendola and Bennett Paradis gave a presentation on draft Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and the Division of Marine Fisheries preliminary recommendations for that plan.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT

A public comment period began at 7:18 p.m. and ended at 7:35 p.m. Four members of the public provided comments. They were Larry Gill, Dale Newman, Eddie Newman, and Dylan Bland.

[View the video recording of the public comment period.](#)

PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT HARD CLAM FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 3

Hard Clam species leads Lorena de la Garza and Jeff Dobbs gave a presentation on draft Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3 and the Division of Marine Fisheries preliminary recommendations for that plan.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

VOTE TO RECOMMEND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Chair Blanton opened the floor to discuss potential management options for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3.

Motion by Mike Marshall to recommend the Division's recommendation regarding phasing out the mechanical clam harvest as described in the mechanical clam harvest issue paper (option 3) and to discontinue the allowance of mechanical clam harvest in conjunction with maintenance dredging (option 4). Second by Brett Wilson. Motion passes 4-1 with 2 abstentions.

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

Motion by William Service to recommend that the MFC ask the DMF to further explore potential options and develop a solution to quantify recreational shellfish participation and landings, and to establish a mechanism to provide all recreational shellfish harvesters. Second by Mike Marshall. Motion passes 5-0 with 2 abstentions.

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

Motion by Brassai Mustin to maintain status quo regarding strategy 1 (Deepwater Oyster Recovery Areas) in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Issue Paper. Second by Mike Marshall. Motion passes 3-2 with 2 abstentions.

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

Motion by Mike Marshall to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission adopt the Cultch Supported Harvest Strategy as described in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Issue Paper. Second by Tim Willis. Motion passes 5-0 with 2 abstentions.



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[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

Motion by Brassai Mustin to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission adopt the Rotational Cultch Site Strategy as described in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Issue Paper. Second by Mike Marshall. Motion passes 5-0 with 2 abstentions.

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

Motion by Mike Marshall to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission adopt the adaptive management framework as described in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Issue Paper. Second by Tim Willis. Motion passes 5-0 with 2 abstentions.

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

ISSUES FROM AC MEMBERS

Jesse Bissette gave updates concerning the recent MFC business meeting and plans for future meetings.

[View the video recording of this update.](#)

Mike Marshall motioned to adjourn, seconded by Brassai Mustin. Motion passed by unanimous consent. The meeting ended at 09:01 p.m.