

NC Marine Fisheries Commission
Chairman's Report
August 2023 Business Meeting

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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.

Marine Fisheries Commission 2023 Annual Calendar

Dates are subject to change.

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1		3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15		17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March						
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April						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28		30	31			

June						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July						
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August						
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September						
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October						
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November						
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26	27	28	29	30		

December						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24				28	29	30
31						

2023 MFC Meeting Dates

MFC Business Meetings

February 22-24
 May 24-26
 August 23-25
 November 15-17

Northern Regional AC

January 10
 April 11
 July 10

Southern Regional AC

January 11
 April 12
 July 10

Finfish Standing AC

January 12
 April 13
 July 10






Shellfish/Crustacean Standing AC

January 17
 April 18
 July 10

Habitat and Water Quality Standing AC

January 18
 April 19
 July 10

Calendar Key

	MFC		Northern Regional AC
	ASMFC		Southern Regional AC
	SAFMC		Finfish Standing AC
	MAFMC		Habitat and Water Quality Standing AC
	State Holiday		Shellfish/Crustacean Standing AC
			Joint AC Workshop

Marine Fisheries Commission 2024 Annual Calendar

Dates are subject to change.

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14		16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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February						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		30
31						

April						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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26		28	29	30	31	

June						
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July						
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August						
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September						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30					

October						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10		12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27			30

December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23				27	28
29	30	31				

2024 MFC Meeting Dates

MFC Business Meetings

February 21-23
May 22-24
August 21-23
November 20-22

Northern Regional AC

January 9
April 9
July 9
October 8

Southern Regional AC

January 10
April 11
July 10
October 9

Finfish Standing AC

January 11
April 11
July 11
October 10












Shellfish/Crustacean Standing AC

January 16
April 16
July 16
October 15

Habitat and Water Quality Standing AC

January 17
April 17
July 17
October 16

Calendar Key

 MFC	 Northern Regional AC
 ASMFC	 Southern Regional AC
 SAFMC	 Finfish Standing AC
 MAFMC	 Habitat and Water Quality Standing AC
 State Holiday	 Shellfish/Crustacean Standing AC
	 Joint AC Workshop

2023 Committee Assignments for Marine Fisheries Commissioners

08/4/2023

FINFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Commissioners: Tom Roller – co-chair, Sarah Gardner – co-chair, Mike Blanton – 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: Doug Rader – chair, Vacant– 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: Vacant – co-chair, Mike Blanton – co-chair, Doug Cross – 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: Doug Rader - chair, and Robert McNeill

DMF Staff Lead: Steve Poland – steve.poland@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

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

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE TRUST 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: Robert McNeill– chair, Rob Bizzell, Tom Roller, and Doug Rader

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, Vacant, 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, Vacant

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, Donald Huggins, Sarah Gardner

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: Doug Rader, Donald Huggins

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

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

Marine Fisheries Commission 2023-2025 WORKPLAN

INCORPORATING ACTIVITY UNDERWAY AND UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS

General Timelines and Abbreviations	"General Timelines" worksheet for details, Colored blocks below indicate MFC Action Point							(See
Fishery Management Plans	(SA)	SAR	GO	(PD)	AC/Pub	PMO	A	
Non-FMP Rule Development	Stock Assessment In Progress R	Stock Assessment Report Presented to MFC IP	Vote to Approve Goal and Objectives PR	Initial Plan Development by DMF/FMP AC RLO	Advisory Committee and Public Review PRL	Select Preferred Management Options	Vote on Final Approval	
Rulemaking	Request Issue Development FA	Information Paper NOT	Decision to pursue rulemaking NCR/PH/PC	Issue paper with rule language options A	Select Preferred Rule Language			
MFC Committee Activity	Fiscal Analysis APR	Approve Notice of Text JUL	Publish in NC Register/Hold Public Hearing&Comment Period	MFC Review Public Comment & Vote on Approval				
	Meeting confirmed and scheduled	Meeting anticipated						

Quarterly Business Meeting

Topic	DMF Staff Lead(s)	Aug - 23	Nov - 23	Feb - 24	May - 24	Aug - 24	Nov - 24	Feb - 25	May - 25	Aug - 25	Nov - 25
Stock Assessments											
Southern Flounder Stock Assessment Update	Lee/Schlick		(SA)	SAR							
Blue Crab Stock Assessment Update	Lee/Schlick	(SA)	SAR								
Active Management Plans											
Striped Mullet FMP Amendment 2	Zapf/Dobbs		AC/Pub	PMO	A						
Spotted Seatrout FMP Amendment 1	Behringer/Pensingler		(PD)		AC/Pub		PMO	A			
Hard Clam/Oyster	Dobbs/Facendola		G/O	(PD)		AC/Pub	PMO	A			
Status of Commission Requests											
Delineation of Fishing Waters Issue	Rawls/Klibansky										
Update False Albacore Information Paper	Seward/Markwith										
Federal Permits - Review Feasibility of State Requirements	Murphey/Batsavage/Witten/Poland/Klibansky		RLO	PRL							
Rulemaking											
18A Rule Reoption - Shellfish Sanitation (85 rules)	Blum/Walsh/Subject Matter Experts	NCR/PH/PC	A								
Data Collection and Harassment Prevention for the Conservation of Marine and Estuarine Resources (5 rules)	Blum/Walsh/Subject Matter Experts	NCR/PH/PC	A								
Oyster Sanctuary Rule Changes (1 rule)	Blum/Walsh/Subject Matter Experts	NCR/PH/PC	A								
Conforming Rule Changes for Shellfish Relay Program and Shellfish Leases and Franchises (12 rules)	Blum/Walsh/Subject Matter Experts	NCR/PH/PC	A								
MFC Committees Meetings											
(Meeting date(s) in cell)											
Nominating Committee	Batsavage/Blum		11-Oct				11-Oct				11-Oct
Shellfish Cultivation Lease Review Committee	Reynolds	18-Jul									
CHPP Steering Committee	Rader/Blanton/Huggins										
Advisory Committees Activity Overview											
(Meeting date(s) in cell)											
Northern Regional Advisory	Behringer/Paramore	In-Person	Virtual	In-Person	Virtual	In-person	Virtual	In-Person	Virtual	In-person	Virtual
Southern Regional Advisory	Moore/Stewart	10-Jul		JAN	APR	JUL	OCT	JAN	APR	JUL	OCT
Finfish Standing Advisory	Paramore/Rock	(Workshop)	No meetings	JAN	APR	JUL	OCT	JAN	APR	JUL	OCT
Shellfish/Crustacean Standing Advisory	Moore/Deaton			JAN	APR	JUL	OCT	JAN	APR	JUL	OCT
Habitat and Water Quality Standing Advisory	Deaton/Harrison			JAN	APR	JUL	OCT	JAN	APR	JUL	OCT