



Summary of Oyster-Clam FMP Advisory Committee Workshop Discussion

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Marine Fisheries

Joe Facendola, Bennett Paradis, Jeff Dobbs, Lorena de la Garza

NC Marine Fisheries Commission | August 22, 2024



Timeline

Eastern Oyster | Amendment 5 & Hard Clam | Amendment 3



• Division holds public scoping period

• Marine Fisheries Commission approve goal and objectives of FMP

• Division drafting FMP

• Division holds workshop to further develop draft FMP with plan advisory committee

You are here

• Division updating draft plan

• Marine Fisheries Commission vote to send draft FMP for public and advisory committee review

• Commission advisory committees meet to review draft FMP and receive public comment

• Marine Fisheries Commission select preferred management options

• Department of Environmental Quality Secretary and legislative review draft FMP

• Marine Fisheries Commission vote on final adoption of FMP

• Division and Marine Fisheries Commission implement management strategies

Oyster/Clam AC Workshop Summary

Advisory Committee Members



Brandon Puckett

Thomas Newman III

Barry Hodowanic

Abby Williams

Wayne Dunbar

Brassai Mustin

Perry McMahon



Oyster/Clam AC Workshop Summary

Outline

Eastern Oyster Amendment 5

- Base Plan
- Habitat & Enhancement Oyster Programs
- Oyster Mechanical Harvest Management
- Intertidal Oyster Hand Harvest Management
- Recreational Harvest

Hard Clam Amendment 3

- Base Plan
 - Hard Clam Mechanical Harvest
 - Recreational Harvest
-
- Next Steps
 - Input & Questions



Oyster/Clam AC Workshop Summary

Oyster Base Plan

- Stock Assessment information
 - Add a summary of other state's methods/findings (Delaware/Maryland)
- Economic impact
 - Consider directed trips in analysis (top 30 participants)
 - Consider economic impacts due to area closures (Hyde County)



Oyster/Clam AC Workshop Summary

Oyster Base Plan

- Water Quality
 - Strengthen the tie into the CHPP
 - Consider adding a way to report shellfish die-off observations
- Highlight the importance of oyster habitat on other species
 - Add to species table notes to symbolize if fish is overfished/overfishing
- Mapping
 - Include all oyster mapping data into plan
 - add exploring novel mapping methods of natural reefs as a research need



Oyster/Clam AC Workshop Summary

Habitat & Enhancement Oyster Programs

- Site selection information
 - More detail Habitat Suitability Index → layers, weights, scoring
 - Place further emphasis on constraints of USACE permit for cultch
- Cultch Planting Program
 - Lack of shell available → exported to other states
 - Start tapping into cultch monitoring data (a step towards stock assessment)



Oyster/Clam AC Workshop Summary

Oyster Mechanical Harvest Issue Paper

- Trigger sampling – monitoring for open/closure of mechanical harvest areas
 - Methodology will be revised (independent of FMP process)
 - AC agrees with revamping methods for better in-season management
- Overall support in incorporating the cultch planting program (and increase planting efforts)
- Consider ways to assign harvest locations (cultch vs wild reefs; specific management areas)
- Extent of deep-water closure areas
 - Some thought areas should be minimized, some thought gear damage required greater closure
 - need to monitor areas over time for recovery



Oyster/Clam AC Workshop Summary

Intertidal Oyster Commercial Hand Harvest Info Paper

- Overall concern about the unknown amount of recreational harvest in southern region
 - Recognized importance of filling data gap
- Research needs
 - Sentinel site monitoring of intertidal oysters (possible stock assessment data)
 - Alternative materials (other than marl) for southern region cultch planting



Oyster/Clam AC Workshop Summary

Hard Clam Base Plan

- Add further details on demographics of participants in mechanical fishery
 - License holder's vs operational crew
- Add comparison between private harvest and commercial harvest
 - Graphical comparison over recent years
 - Noted that aquaculture has been slow to grow
 - Limited seed suppliers in NC



Oyster/Clam AC Workshop Summary

Hard Clam Mechanical Commercial Harvest Issue Paper

- Input on management recommendations
 - Don't phase out the fishery
 - Supplemental income for retired participants
 - Loss of heritage between generations (and passing gear down)
 - Cost to enforce the fishery
 - Inquiries to number of violations reported in mechanical clam fishery
 - Suggested to simplify regulations, such as boundary lines
 - Highlighted the importance of SAV and water quality issues
 - Protecting SAV habitat shouldn't come at the cost of mechanical clam fishery
 - Reference the CHPP and its emphasis on SAV
- Research topics to emphasize
 - Quantify mechanical gear disturbance impacts on SAV habitat



Oyster/Clam AC Workshop Summary

Recreational Shellfish Harvest Issue Paper

- Discussed recreating the 1991 recreational survey
 - Estimate the number of trips and participants
 - If participation has continued or grown, the impact could be significant
 - Necessary for stock assessment
- Overall recognition of importance & supported the collection of recreational harvest data
 - License should be the end goal
 - Recommended using survey or permit in meantime
- Raised the point of linking public health concerns to economic impacts
 - Improve public outreach and education on safe harvest, consumption
 - Potential impacts of Vibrio cases on the commercial fisheries



Timeline

Eastern Oyster | Amendment 5 & Hard Clam | Amendment 3



• Division holds public scoping period

• Marine Fisheries Commission approve goal and objectives of FMP

• Division drafting FMP

• Division holds workshop to further develop draft FMP with plan advisory committee

You are here

• Division updating draft plan

• Marine Fisheries Commission vote to send draft FMP for public and advisory committee review

• Commission advisory committees meet to review draft FMP and receive public comment

• Marine Fisheries Commission select preferred management options

• Department of Environmental Quality Secretary and legislative review draft FMP

• Marine Fisheries Commission vote on final adoption of FMP

• Division and Marine Fisheries Commission implement management strategies

Next Steps

- November MFC Meeting
 - Standing AC review
 - Public comment
- February MFC Meeting
 - Select preferred management options



Questions

Oyster Co-Leads

Joe Facendola

joe.facendola@deq.nc.gov

910-796-7291

Bennett Paradis

bennett.paradis@deq.nc.gov

252-515-5482

Clam Co-Leads

Jeff Dobbs

jeffrey.dobbs@deq.nc.gov

252-515-5640

Lorena delaGarza

lorena.delaGarza@deq.nc.gov

252-423-5256

