

MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING
Hilton Riverside, Wilmington, N.C.
Feb. 18-20, 2015

N.C.G.S. 138A-15(e) mandates at the beginning of any meeting of a board, the chair shall remind all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest under Chapter 138. The chair also shall inquire as to whether there is any known conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the board at that time.

N.C.G.S. 143B-289.54.(g)(2) states a member of the Marine Fisheries Commission shall not vote on any issue before the Commission that would have a "significant and predictable effect" on the member's financial interest. For purposes of this subdivision, "significant and predictable effect" means there is or may be a close causal link between the decision of the Commission and an expected disproportionate financial benefit to the member that is shared only by a minority of persons within the same industry sector or gear group. A member of the Commission shall also abstain from voting on any petition submitted by an advocacy group of which the member is an officer or sits as a member of the advocacy group's board of directors. A member of the Commission shall not use the member's official position as a member of the Commission to secure any special privilege or exemption of substantial value for any person. No member of the Commission shall, by the member's conduct, create an appearance that any person could improperly influence the member in the performance of the member's official duties.

Commissioners having questions about a conflict of interest or appearance of conflict should consult with counsel to the Marine Fisheries Commission or the secretary's ethics liaison. Upon discovering a conflict, the commissioner should inform the chair of the commission in accordance with N.C.G.S. 138A-15(e).

Feb. 18

6 p.m. Public Meeting
Receive public comment relative to any fisheries management issues

Feb. 19

9 a.m. Call to Order*
Invocation
Conflict of Interest Reminder
Roll Call
Vote on Approval of Agenda**
Vote on Approval of Meeting Minutes**

9:15 a.m. Public Comment
Receive public comment relative to any fisheries management issues

9:45 a.m. Chairman's Report
Review administrative actions and issues from the chair

- Letters
- Advisory Committee Appointments
- Ethics Training Reminder
- 2015 Meeting Schedule Reminder

10 a.m. Issues from Commissioners

10:15 a.m. Committee Reports
Review and consideration of action items from committee meetings

- Coastal Recreational Fishing License – Louis Daniel
- Oyster and Hard Clam Fishery Management Plans

10:30 a.m. Rulemaking Update and Fishery Management Plan Final Approval– Catherine Blum

- 2014/2015 Rulemaking Cycle
Review public comment, vote on final rules and approval of final fishery management plans.
 - Review of Hearings and Public Comment
 - **Vote on Final Approval of the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1 and Associated Permanent Rules****
 - **Vote on Final Approval of the N.C. Bay Scallop Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2 and Associated Permanent Rules****
 - **Vote on Final Approval of the River Herring Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2 and Associated Permanent Rules****

– **Other Rules**

- **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Eel Addendum III****
- **For-Hire Licensing and Logbooks****
- **Ocean Pier Licensing Changes****
- **User Conflict Rule Relocation****
- **Queens Creek Coordinate Correction and Brunswick County Canal Name Change****

11:30 a.m.

Rule Suspensions – Kathy Rawls

The commission must vote to continue suspension of the following rules:

- **Vote on Rule Suspension for Portions of 15A NCAC 03M .0519 Management of shad****
- **Vote on Rules Suspension for Portions of 15A NCAC 03Q .0107 Management of shad****

11:45 a.m.

Fishery Management Plans – Catherine Blum

- Status of Ongoing Plans
- **Vote on sending the Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1 Forward for Rulemaking****

Noon

Lunch Recess

1:30 p.m.

Petition for Declaratory Ruling

The commission must vote to grant or deny consideration of a petition for a declaratory ruling from American Eel Farm, LLC and the Division of Marine Fisheries regarding 15A NCAC 03M .0510.

- Declaratory Ruling Process Overview – Phillip Reynolds
- Presentation of Request – Louis Daniel
 - **Vote to Grant or Deny Consideration of the Merits of the Petition****

2 p.m.

Stakeholder Workgroup/Bycatch Reduction Device Testing Update – Kevin Brown

2:30 p.m.

Southern Flounder Stock Assessment – Will Smith and Tom Wadsworth (Presentation)

3:30 p.m.

Sheepshead Management – Stephen Taylor (Presentation)

4 p.m.

FY 2015/2016 Initiative Development – Louis Daniel

5 p.m.

Tagging Program Overview - Mike Loeffler and Amy Comer (Presentation)

5:30 p.m.

Recess

Feb. 20

8:30 a.m.

N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Update – Jerry Schill

9 a.m.

Director’s Report – Louis Daniel

Reports and updates on recent Division of Marine Fisheries activities.

- Legislative Update
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Quota Update
- Landings Updates
 - Southern Flounder
 - Red Drum
 - Oyster
- Protected Resources Update – Chris Batsavage
 - Observer Program
 - Incidental Take Permit Updates
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Update – Chris Batsavage
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Update – Michelle Duval
- Highly Migratory Species – Randy Gregory
- Informational Materials
 - Rule Suspension Notices and Cobia Update/No Action Required

- Making Proclamations Easier to Understand
- Minimum Size of Effective Sanctuaries
- Average Trips and Weight of Red Drum
- Personal Consumption Survey

11:30 a.m. Issues from Commissioners

11:45 a.m. Meeting Assignments and Preview of Agenda Items for Upcoming Meeting – Nancy Fish

Noon Adjourn

2015 Meeting Dates

Feb. 18-20 Hilton Riverside, Wilmington

May 20-22 Hilton Riverfront, New Bern

Aug. 19-21 Hilton Brownstone, Raleigh

Nov. 18-20 Jennette's Pier, Nags Head

** Times indicated are merely for guidance. The commission will proceed through the agenda until completed.*

***Potential Action Items*