

Chairman's Report





**NORTH CAROLINA MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

COMMISSIONERS

PAT MCCRORY
Governor

DONALD VAN DER VAART
Secretary

SAMMY CORBETT
Chairman

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MIKE WICKER
Raleigh
ALISON WILLIS
Harkers Island

Dec. 20, 2016

The Honorable Jimmy Dixon
N.C. House of Representatives
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2226
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Dear Representative Dixon:

At its Nov. 16-17 business meeting in Kitty Hawk, the Marine Fisheries Commission voted to endorse the recommendations from its Standard Commercial Fishing License Criteria Committee regarding licensing issues and concerns. Those recommendations are attached.

As we discussed previously, licensing our fishermen is a complex but necessary undertaking. We want to ensure that people continue to have access to recreationally and commercially harvest coastal fisheries at sustainable levels. We also want to ensure that commercial fishermen are well qualified, well informed, and experienced with sustainable fishing practices. And we want to ensure that the Division of Marine Fisheries and Marine Fisheries Commission are basing our decisions on reliable data and analyses of fishing efforts and landings from different types of fishing licenses and permits. For these reasons, I think examining our licensing system to look for potential improvements is a worthwhile initiative.

Again, thank you for your interest in our fisheries and the management of this important public trust resource. I look forward to working with you, the members of the House Select Committee on Wildlife Resources, and the N.C. General Assembly on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sammy Corbett".

Sammy Corbett, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

cc: Marine Fisheries Commission
Members of the N.C. General Assembly
DEQ Secretary Donald van der Vaart

LICENSING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
Nov. 17, 2016

Recommendations that would likely require legislative changes by the NC General Assembly:

Full-time Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility – Modify the existing licensing laws to limit Standard Commercial Fishing License eligibility based on a certain number of fishing trips or trip tickets submitted or number of days fished within a specified time period. Must include:

- An exemption for aquaculture operations (it can take several years for these operations to produce a harvestable crop);
- A hardship clause for illness or acts of God; and
- A way to list multiple crew members on a trip ticket to document their fishing participation.

Part-time Standard Commercial Fishing License – Create a new part-time license that anyone could qualify for at one-half the cost of the Standard Commercial Fishing License. This license would allow the use of limited amounts of commercial gear and would require trip ticket reporting. This license could serve as a stepping stone to qualify for a full-time Standard Commercial Fishing License - have the Marine Fisheries Commission set the criteria.

Heritage Standard Commercial Fishing License – Create a new type of license that is an inactive license, sold at one-half the cost of the current Standard Commercial Fishing License. This license could be activated to a full-time Standard Commercial Fishing License for one time only. Active licenses would then have to maintain criteria set for full-time licenses.

Commercial Gear Usage – Require that all landings caught by commercial gear, regardless of the type of license held, or whether the catch is sold or caught for personal use, be recorded on trip tickets.

Tax Exempt Status – Set an income threshold for tax exempt status at \$10,000 for commercial fishing.

For-Hire License – Require holders of this license to report catch via a logbook.

Resident Land or Sell License – Create a new license to allow state residents to have similar opportunities as the Land or Sell License. This license would allow individuals to land and sell catch like bluefin tuna caught in federal waters. Currently the Land or Sell License is only available to non-residents.

Recommendations that would require rule changes by the Marine Fisheries Commission:

Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Board Criteria – Develop rules to improve criteria used to determine who is eligible to receive a license through the Eligibility Board. Consider graduation or completion of classes from a community college in commercial fishing as an additional way to qualify.

Transfers/Assignments - Develop rules to limit 3rd party transfers and/or refine criteria allowing temporary assignments of Standard Commercial Fishing Licenses.

Other

Recreational Catch – Have Division of Marine Fisheries staff explore options to enhance recreational data collection; for example, using a phone app to report catch.



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Jan. 11, 2017

Mr. Dewey Hemilright
P.O. Box 667
Wanchese, NC 27981

Dear Mr. Hemilright,

The U.S. Secretary of Commerce has requested that Governor Cooper submit the names of qualified candidates to be considered for an obligatory appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) in August 2017. The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission is responsible for compiling a list of nominees for the governor's consideration. At its Nov. 16-18, 2016 business meeting, the commission reviewed information from candidates interested in an appointment to the Council. Your name was among those selected by the commission for submission to Governor Cooper as a nominee for an appointment to the Council.

Each council nominee is required to complete nomination materials provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). Your nomination materials are attached and are also available in fillable, .pdf format at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/reg_svcs/Councils/Nominations/applicationkit.htm. All forms must be completed in detail in order for you to be considered for an appointment. Please complete the forms and return no later than Feb. 7, 2017 to: Michelle Duval, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557. The division will review your forms for completeness and forward them to the governor's office for submission to the National Marine Fisheries Service by March 15, 2017.

I wish to congratulate you on your selection by the commission as a nominee for an obligatory appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Please feel free to contact Dr. Duval by phone at 252-808-8011 or by email at michelle.duval@ncdenr.gov if you need additional information concerning the nomination process.

Sincerely,

Sammy Corbett, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

MD/nf

Cc: Braxton Davis Bill Ross
Michelle Duval
Nancy Fish



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Jan. 11, 2017

Mr. Chris Hickman
P.O. Box 476
Hatteras, NC 27943

Dear Mr. Hickman,

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Sincerely,

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Jan. 11, 2017

Mr. Jeff Oden
P.O. Box 374
Hatteras, NC 27943

Dear Mr. Oden,

The U.S. Secretary of Commerce has requested that Governor Cooper submit the names of qualified candidates to be considered for an obligatory appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) in August 2017. The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission is responsible for compiling a list of nominees for the governor's consideration. At its Nov. 16-18, 2016 business meeting, the commission reviewed information from candidates interested in an appointment to the Council. Your name was among those selected by the commission for submission to Governor Cooper as a nominee for an appointment to the Council.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sammy Corbett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sammy Corbett, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

MD/nf

Cc: Braxton Davis Bill Ross
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Jan. 11, 2017

Mr. Brent Fulcher
P.O. Box 3321
New Bern, NC 28560

Dear Mr. Fulcher,

The U.S. Secretary of Commerce has requested that Governor Cooper submit the names of qualified candidates to be considered for an obligatory appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) in August 2017. The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission is responsible for compiling a list of nominees for the governor's consideration. At its Nov. 16-18, 2016 business meeting, the commission reviewed information from candidates interested in an appointment to the Council. Your name was among those selected by the commission for submission to Governor Cooper as a nominee for an appointment to the Council.

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Sincerely,

Sammy Corbett, Chairman
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

MD/nf

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REMINDER

MANDATORY EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

MANDATORY EDUCATION.

Public Servants and Ethics Liaisons. The State Government Ethics Act *requires* that every public servant and ethics liaison complete an ethics and lobbying education presentation/program approved by the State Ethics Commission *within 6 months* of the person's election, reelection, appointment, or employment **and** complete a refresher ethics presentation *at least every two years thereafter*.

The willful failure of a public servant serving on a board to comply with the education requirements may subject the person to removal from the board. The willful failure of a public servant who is a State employee to comply with the education requirement may be considered a violation of a written work order permitting disciplinary action. Therefore, if there are public servants in your agency or on your covered state board or commission who are past due for completing their ethics education requirements, **those individuals should attend a live presentation, distance video-streamed presentation or complete the online education as soon as possible.**

Legislators. The State Government Ethics Act *requires* that every legislator complete an ethics and lobbying education presentation/program approved by the State Ethics Commission and the Legislative Ethics Committee *within 2 months* of either the convening of the General Assembly to which the legislator is elected or the legislator's appointment, whichever is later, **and** complete a refresher ethics education presentation *at least every two years thereafter*.

The willful failure of a legislator to comply with these education requirements may subject the legislator to sanctions under the Legislative Ethics Act.

Legislative Employees. The State Government Ethics Act *requires* that every legislative employee complete an ethics and lobbying education presentation/program approved by the State Ethics Commission and the Legislative Ethics Committee *within 3 months* of the person's employment **and** complete a refresher ethics education presentation *at least every two years thereafter*.

The willful failure of a legislative employee to comply with these education requirements may subject the person to disciplinary action by their hiring authority.

Legislators and Legislative Employees may check the status of their ethics education by going to the General Assembly intra-net page. Legislators and legislative employees who are past due for completing their ethics education requirements should contact Denise Adams with the Research Division of the General Assembly at denise.adams@ncleg.net or 919-301-1991 to coordinate/schedule their ethics education training.

ETHICS AND LOBBYING EDUCATION TRAINING.

Public Servants and Ethics Liaisons may complete the required basic or refresher ethics and lobbying education training by either attending a live presentation, a distance video streamed presentation or completing the online education modules.

- **Live and Distance Video-Streamed Presentation Dates.** The State Ethics Commission has scheduled live ethics and lobbying education presentations and distance video-streamlined presentations for the remainder of 2014. Dates, locations, and registration information are on the Commission's website at:
www.ethicscommission.nc.gov/education/eduSchedule.aspx.
- **Online Education.** The State Ethics Commission also offers online ethics and lobbying education. The education modules and instructions are on the Commission's website at:
www.ethicscommission.nc.gov/education/eduOnline.aspx.

Legislators may complete the required basic or refresher ethics and lobbying education training by attending a live presentation at the beginning of the legislative session jointly provided by the Ethic Commission and the Research Division of the General Assembly.

Legislative Employees may complete the required basic or refresher ethics and lobbying education training by going online to the General Assembly intra-net page.

REGISTRATION AND QUESTIONS.

- **Public Servants and Ethics Liaisons** please contact Sue Lundberg at (919) 715-2071 or by e-mail at Education.Ethics@doa.nc.gov to register for ethics and lobbying education training or if you have ethics education questions.
- **Legislators and Legislative Employees** please contact the General Assembly ethics hotline at 919-301-1991 or email Denise Adams at denise.adams@ncleg.net if you have questions about the ethics and lobbying education training or have ethics education questions.

Thank you for giving this matter your immediate attention and for sharing this information with all members of your covered board, commission or committee, all staff and employees covered under the State Government Ethics Act, and all legislators and legislative employees.

2017 Meeting Planning Calendar

January						
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