

Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting

AGENDA

Doubletree Hotel, New Bern, NC
February 22-24, 2023

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).

Wednesday, February 22nd

6:00 p.m. Public Comment Period

Thursday, February 23rd

9:00 a.m. Public Comment Period

9:30 a.m. Preliminary Matters

- Commission Call to Order* – Rob Bizzell, Chairman
- Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
- Conflict of Interest Reminder
- Roll Call
- **Approval of Agenda ****
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes****

9:45 a.m. Chairman's Report

- Letters and Online Comments
- Ethics Training and Statement of Economic Interest Reminder
- 2023 Meeting Schedule
- Commission Committee Assignments
- Committee Reports
 - Northern Regional Advisory Committee
 - Southern Regional Advisory Committee
 - Finfish Standing Advisory Committee
 - Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee
 - Habitat and Water Quality Advisory Committee

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

****Probable Action Items**

Thursday, February 23rd continued...

- Joint Meeting of the MFC Commercial Resources Fund Committee and the Funding Committee for the N. C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund

10:00 a.m. **Consideration of Resolution from Stakeholder Engagement for Collaborative Coastal Habitat Initiative**

10:30 a.m. Director's Report – Kathy Rawls

- Division of Marine Fisheries Quarterly Update
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – Chris Batsavage
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Update – Chris Batsavage
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Update – Trish Murphey
- Marine Patrol Update – Col. Carter Witten
- Shellfish Lease Program Update – Owen Mulvey-McFerron
- Update on Conclusion of Relay Program – Jacob Boyd
- Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Update – Anne Deaton
- Protected Resources Update – Barbie Byrd
- Southern Flounder Updates – Anne Markwith
- Informational Materials and Memos:
 - Highly Migratory Species
 - Observer Program Memo
 - Incidental Take Permit Reports
 - Landings Updates
 - Rule Suspensions

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. False Albacore Information Paper Overview – Mclean Seward, Anne Markwith

2:30 p.m. Fishery Management Plans

- Status of ongoing plans – Corrin Flora
- Spotted Seatrout Fishery Overview – Lucas Pensinger, Jason Rock
- Striped Mullet FMP – Dan Zapf, Jeff Dobbs, Willow Patten
 - Fishery Characterization
 - Supplement to Amendment 1 of the Striped Mullet FMP
 - Review public comment
 - **Vote on final approval ****

Friday, February 24th

9:00 a.m. Rulemaking Update – Catherine Blum

- 2021-2022 Annual Rulemaking Cycle Update
- 2022-2023 Annual Rulemaking Cycle
 - **Vote on final approval of Mutilated Finfish Rule (15A NCAC 03M .0101) and Marinas, Mooring Areas, and Other Docking Facilities Rule (15A NCAC 18A .0911)****
- 2023-2024 Annual Rulemaking cycle

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***Probable Action Items*

- **Vote on management option and associated proposed language for rulemaking for "Data Collection and Harassment Prevention for the Conservation of Marine and Estuarine Resources" issue paper****

Friday, February 24th continued...

- **Vote on management option and associated proposed language for rulemaking for "Oyster Sanctuary Rule Changes" issue paper****
- **Vote on management option and associated proposed language for rulemaking for "Conforming Rule Changes for Shellfish Relay Program and Shellfish Leases and Franchises" issue paper****

9:30 a.m. Issues from Commissioners

10:00 a.m. Meeting Assignments and Preview of Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Lara Klibansky

10:30 a.m. Adjourn

DRAFT