

NC Marine Fisheries Commission

# **Chairman's Report**

**March 2025 Quarterly Business Meeting**

## **Documents**

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State Ethics Education Reminder

2025 Annual Meeting Calendar

MFC Workplan



## 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.

Our new 90-minute on-demand online program is available on our website under the Education tab. For your convenience, here is the [link](#). The new program is compatible with portable devices such as phones and tablets.

Live webinar presentations are also offered every month. These presentations are 90 minutes in length and give the opportunity to ask questions of the speaker. Registration information for those can be found [here](#).

For questions or additional information concerning the Ethics Education requirements, please contact Tracey Powell at (919) 814-3600.

# Marine Fisheries Commission 2025 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	15	16	17	18
19		21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February						
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	24	25	26	27	28	

March						
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	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17		19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May						
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	24
25		27	28	29	30	31

June						
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	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3		5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August						
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
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October						
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	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			29
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			

## 2025 MFC Meeting Dates

MFC Business Meetings	Northern Regional AC	Southern Regional AC
February 19-21	January 7	January 8
May 21-23	March 18	March 19
August 20-22	June 17	June 18
November 19-21	September 23	September 24
Shellfish/Crustacean	Finfish Standing AC	Habitat and Water Quality
January 9	March 25	January 15
March 20	June 24	March 26
June 19	September 30	June 25
September 25		October 1
Joint Meeting of All ACs: March 13, June 19, September 11		

## Calendar Key

MFC	Shellfish/Crustacean Standing AC
Northern Regional AC	Habitat and Water Quality Standing AC
Southern Regional AC	State Holiday
Finfish Standing AC	Federal Commission or Council Meeting
Joint Meeting of ACs for MFC Review and Presentation of Action Items	
Joint Meeting of Northern, Southern, and Finfish AC	

# Marine Fisheries Commission Workplan - March 2025

Orange = Action Item			Green = No Action Necessary				
Topic	Nov 2024	Mar 2025	May 2025	Aug 2025	Nov 2025	Feb 2026	May 2026
<b>Active Management Plans</b>							
Spotted Seatrout FMP Amendment 1	Select Preferred Options	Final Adoption					
Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3	Send to AC/Public Review	Select Preferred Options	Final Adoption				
Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5	Send to AC/Public Review	Select Preferred Options	Final Adoption				
Southern Flounder FMP Amendment 4	Announced to MFC	Send to AC/Public Review	Select Preferred Options	Final Adoption			
Southern Flounder FMP Amendment 5	Announced to MFC	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress	Send to AC/Public Review	Select Preferred Options	Final Adoption
Blue Crab FMP Amendment 3 - Adaptive Management	In Progress	In Progress	Adopt Adaptive Management				
CSMA Amendment 2 Data Update			Information Presented				
<b>Rulemaking</b>							
False Albacore Rule	In Progress	Final Adoption					
Simplify Pot Marking Requirements	In Progress	Final Adoption					
Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact	In Progress	Final Adoption					
<b>Commission Requests</b>							
Federal Permits - Review Feasibility of State Requirements	Info Presented						
Atlantic Bonito Management	In Progress	In Progress					

# **Committee Reports**

**February 2025 Quarterly Business Meeting**

## **Documents**

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Northern Regional Advisory Committee

Southern Regional Advisory Committee

Shellfish Advisory Committee

Habitat and Water Quality Advisory Committee



**DRAFT**

JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

January 22, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission  
Northern Regional Advisory Committee

FROM: Coral Sawyer, MFC Program Assistant  
Marine Fisheries Commission Office

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Commission’s Northern Regional Advisory Committee, January 7, 2025, to provide recommendations for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3.

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The Marine Fisheries Commission’s (MFC) Northern Regional Advisory Committee (AC) held a meeting on January 7, 2025, at the Dare County Administration Building in Manteo, North Carolina, and via webinar. AC members could attend in either setting to communicate with other committee members.

The following Advisory Committee members were in attendance in person: Sara Winslow, Keith Bruno, Herman “Wayne” Dunbar, Melissa Clark, Stuart Creighton, Robert Makowsky, Jonathan Worthington. The following member were in attendance online: Morton Gaskill, Thomas Newman. (Absent: Everett Blake, Jamie Lane Winslow)

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Staff: Jesse Bisette, Coral Sawyer, Brandi Salmon, Jeff Dobbs, Dan Zapf, Barbie Byrd, Kathy Rawls, Hope Wade, Jason Walsh, Colonel Carter Witten, Captain Chris Lee, Bennett Paradis, Lorena de la Garza, Joe Facendola, Charlton Godwin, Sgt. Edward Mann, Officer Jacob Williams.

Public: James Fletcher, Bobby Smith, Fletcher O’Neal, Ian Perna

The Northern Regional AC had seven members present in person at the start of the meeting and a quorum was met.

Northern Regional AC Chair Sara Winslow called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m. The full meeting recording can be viewed [here](#).

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Jonathan Worthington and seconded by Melissa Clark. The motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2024, and October 08, 2024, meetings was made by Jonathan Worthington and seconded by Kieth Bruno. The motion passed unanimously.**



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

## **PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT EASTERN OYSTER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 5**

Eastern Oyster species leads Joe Facendola and Bennett Paradis gave a presentation on draft Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and the Division of Marine Fisheries preliminary recommendations for that plan.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

## **Presentation on the draft Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3**

Hard Clam species leads Lorena de la Garza and Jeff Dobbs gave a presentation on draft Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3 and the Division of Marine Fisheries preliminary recommendations for that plan.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A public comment period began at 7:39 p.m. and ended at 7:48 p.m. Two members of the public, James Fletcher and Bobby Smith, provided public comment.

[View the video recording of the public comment period.](#)

## **VOTE TO RECOMMEND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**

### **EASTERN OYSTER FMP AMENDMENT 5**

Chair Sara Winslow opened the floor to discuss potential management options for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5.

**Motion by Stuart Creighton to endorse the MFC tasking the DMF with exploring options for a recreational shellfish license/permit outside of the FMP process. Second by Robert Makowsky. Motion passed 8-1.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Keith Bruno to keep options 2 (cultch supported harvest areas) and 3 (rotational cultch sites) with the intent to streamline and adapt procedure for sampling vessels (based on Dan Bolin's study). Because of the unknown advantages and known disadvantages to the commercial industry, the Northern Regional AC does not recommend the Deepwater Oyster Recovery Areas management strategy. Second by Morton Gaskill. Motion passed 7-2.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Robert Makowsky to recommend adopting the adaptive management framework as proposed by the DMF in the cultch supported harvest strategy. Second by Stuart Creighton. Motion passed 8-1.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

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*Director*

### HARD CLAM FMP AMENDMENT 3

Chair Sara Winslow opened the floor to discuss potential management options for the Clam FMP Amendment 3.

**Motion by Stuart Creighton to endorse the MFC tasking the DMF with exploring options for a recreational shellfish license/permit outside of the FMP process. Second by Jonathan Worthington. Motion passed 8-1.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Stuart Creighton to support the Division's recommendation to phase out mechanical clam harvest as listed in the mechanical clam harvest issue paper. Second by Robert Makowsky. Motion failed 3-5.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Wayne Dunbar for mechanical clam harvest to stay at status quo. Second by Melissa Clark. Motion passed 6-3.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

### ISSUES FROM AC MEMBERS

Jesse Bisette gave updates concerning the recent MFC business meeting and plans for future meetings.

[View the video recording of this update.](#)

**Jonathan Worthington motioned to adjourn, seconded by Wayne Dunbar. Motion passed by unanimous consent.** The meeting ended at 08:29 p.m.





JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

January 22, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission  
Southern Regional Advisory Committee

FROM: Coral Sawyer, Program Assistant  
Marine Fisheries Commission Office

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Commission’s Southern Regional Advisory Committee, January 8, 2025, to provide recommendations for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3.

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The Marine Fisheries Commission’s (MFC) Southern Regional Advisory Committee (AC) held a meeting on January 8, 2025, at the Division of Marine Fisheries Central District Office in Morehead City, North Carolina, and via webinar. AC members could attend in either setting to communicate with other committee members.

The following Advisory Committee members were in attendance in person: Tom Smith, Samuel Boyce, Pam Morris, Michael Opegard, Kenneth Seigler, John “Glenn” Skinner, Jeremy Skinner, Michael Yates. The following member were in attendance online: Fred Scharf. (Absent: Truby Proctor, Tim Wilson)

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Staff: Jesse Bisette, Coral Sawyer, Brandi Salmon, Jeff Dobbs, Dan Zapf, Barbie Byrd, Kathy Rawls, Hope Wade, Jason Walsh, Colonel Carter Witten, Bennet Paradis, Joe Facendola, Lorena de la Garza, Officer Brian Gupton.

Public: Wesley Potter

The Southern Regional AC had eight members present in person at the start of the meeting and a quorum was met.

Southern Regional AC Vice Chair Tom Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The full meeting recording can be viewed [here](#).

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Glenn Skinner and seconded by Pam Morris. The motion passed without dissent.**

**A motion to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2024, meeting was made by Pam Morris and seconded by Glenn Skinner. The motion passed without dissent.**

**A motion was made by Samuel Boyce to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2024, meeting with the amended wording on page 4 to say “Brunswick River” instead of “Brunswick County”. The motion was seconded by Glenn Skinner and passed without dissent.**



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

### **PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT EASTERN OYSTER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 5**

Eastern Oyster species leads Joe Facendola and Bennett Paradis gave a presentation on draft Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and the Division of Marine Fisheries preliminary recommendations for that plan.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

### **PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT HARD CLAM FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 3**

Hard Clam species leads Lorena de la Garza and Jeff Dobbs gave a presentation on draft Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3 and the Division of Marine Fisheries preliminary recommendations for that plan.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A public comment period began at 7:42 p.m. and ended at 7:47 p.m. One member of the public, Wesley Potter, provided public comment.

[View the video recording of the public comment period.](#)

### **VOTE TO RECOMMEND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**

Vice Chair Smith opened the floor to discuss potential management options for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3.

**Motion by Samuel Boyce to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission ask the Division of Marine Fisheries to further explore potential options and develop a solution to quantify recreational shellfish participation and landings, and to establish a mechanism to provide all recreational shellfish harvesters with SSRWQ health and safety information outside of the FMP process. Second by Michael Oppedard. Motion carries.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Samuel Boyce that the AC supports a significantly narrower approach to DORAs than what is described in the issue paper with the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the closures before considering closing the majority of the area. Second by Michael Yates. Motion passes without dissent.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Michael Oppedard to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission adopt the proposed Cultch-Supported Harvest Strategy as described in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Management Issue Paper. Second by Samuel Boyce. Motion passes with one abstention.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**Motion by Glenn Skinner to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission adopt the Rotational Cultch Site Strategy as described in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Management Issue Paper. Second by Michael Yates. Motion passes without dissent.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Samuel Boyce to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission adopt the adaptive management framework as described in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Issue Paper. Second by Michael Oppegaard. Motion passes 5-4.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Glenn Skinner to maintain the status quo in the mechanical clam fishery. Second by Pam Morris. Motion passes 6-1, with 2 abstentions.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

#### **ISSUES FROM AC MEMBERS**

Jesse Bisette gave updates concerning the recent MFC business meeting and plans for future meetings.

[View the video recording of this update.](#)

**Sam Boyce motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mike Oppegaard. Motion passed by unanimous consent. The meeting ended at 9:09 p.m.**



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

January 22, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission  
Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee

FROM: Coral Sawyer, Program Assistant  
Marine Fisheries Commission Office

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Commission's Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee, January 9, 2025, to provide recommendations for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3.

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The Marine Fisheries Commission's (MFC) Shellfish/Crustacean Advisory Committee (AC) held a meeting on January 9, 2025, at the Department of Environmental Quality Washington Regional Office in Washington, North Carolina, and via webinar. AC members could attend in either setting to communicate with other committee members.

The following Advisory Committee members were in attendance in person: Mike Blanton, William Service, Mike Marshall, Brassai Mustin, Brett Wilson. The following members were in attendance online: Michael Hardison, Tim Willis. (Absent: Lauren Burch, Mary Sue Hamann, Bruce Morris, Brian Shepard)

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Staff: Jesse Bisette, Coral Sawyer, Brandi Salmon, Jeff Dobbs, Dan Zapf, Barbie Byrd, Kathy Rawls, Hope Wade, Jason Walsh, Colonel Carter Witten, Bennett Paradis, Lorena de la Garza, Joe Facendola, Jason Rock, Kristina Flanigan, Alan Bianchi, Officer Jonathan Morris, Officer Candace Rose.

Public: Lyle Cahoon, Claudia Cahoon, Christopher Cuthrell, Steve Migette, Lany Paul, Peyton Hassell, Dylan Bland, Chad M., Thomas "Eddie" Newman, Dale Newman, Larry Gill.

The Shellfish/Crustacean AC had seven members present at the start of the meeting and a quorum was met.

Shellfish/Crustacean AC Chair Mike Blanton called the meeting to order at 06:01 p.m. The full meeting recording can be viewed [here](#).

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Tim Willis and seconded by Mike Marshall. The motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2024, and September 26, 2024, meetings was made by Tim Willis and seconded by Mike Marshall. The motion passed unanimously.**

**PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT EASTERN OYSTER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 5**



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

Eastern Oyster species leads Joe Facendola and Bennett Paradis gave a presentation on draft Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and the Division of Marine Fisheries preliminary recommendations for that plan.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A public comment period began at 7:18 p.m. and ended at 7:35 p.m. Four members of the public provided comments. They were Larry Gill, Dale Newman, Eddie Newman, and Dylan Bland.

[View the video recording of the public comment period.](#)

### **PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT HARD CLAM FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 3**

Hard Clam species leads Lorena de la Garza and Jeff Dobbs gave a presentation on draft Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3 and the Division of Marine Fisheries preliminary recommendations for that plan.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

### **VOTE TO RECOMMEND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**

Chair Blanton opened the floor to discuss potential management options for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3.

**Motion by Mike Marshall to recommend the Division's recommendation regarding phasing out the mechanical clam harvest as described in the mechanical clam harvest issue paper (option 3) and to discontinue the allowance of mechanical clam harvest in conjunction with maintenance dredging (option 4). Second by Brett Wilson. Motion passes 4-1 with 2 abstentions.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by William Service to recommend that the MFC ask the DMF to further explore potential options and develop a solution to quantify recreational shellfish participation and landings, and to establish a mechanism to provide all recreational shellfish harvesters. Second by Mike Marshall. Motion passes 5-0 with 2 abstentions.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Brassai Mustin to maintain status quo regarding strategy 1 (Deepwater Oyster Recovery Areas) in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Issue Paper. Second by Mike Marshall. Motion passes 3-2 with 2 abstentions.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Mike Marshall to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission adopt the Cultch Supported Harvest Strategy as described in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Issue Paper. Second by Tim Willis. Motion passes 5-0 with 2 abstentions.**



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Brassai Mustin to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission adopt the Rotational Cultch Site Strategy as described in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Issue Paper. Second by Mike Marshall. Motion passes 5-0 with 2 abstentions.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Mike Marshall to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission adopt the adaptive management framework as described in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Issue Paper. Second by Tim Willis. Motion passes 5-0 with 2 abstentions.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

#### **ISSUES FROM AC MEMBERS**

Jesse Bissette gave updates concerning the recent MFC business meeting and plans for future meetings.

[View the video recording of this update.](#)

**Mike Marshall motioned to adjourn, seconded by Brassai Mustin. Motion passed by unanimous consent. The meeting ended at 09:01 p.m.**



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

January 22, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission  
Habitat & Water Quality Advisory Committee

FROM: Coral Sawyer, Program Assistant  
Marine Fisheries Commission Office

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Commission's Habitat & Water Quality Advisory Committee, January 15, 2025, to provide recommendations for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3.

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The Marine Fisheries Commission's (MFC) Habitat & Water Quality Advisory Committee (AC) held a meeting on January 15, 2025, at the Division of Marine Fisheries Central District Office in Morehead City, North Carolina, and via webinar. AC members could attend in either setting to communicate with other committee members.

The following Advisory Committee members were in attendance in person: Doug Rader, Sarah Gardner, David Glenn, Nathan Hall, Scott Leahy, Mark Sondar. The following members were in attendance online: Cate Arnold, Lisa Rider. (Absent: Jack Durham, Joel Fodrie, Markham Parrish)

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Staff: Jesse Bisette via webinar, Coral Sawyer, Hope Wade, Debbie Manley, Dan Zapf, Barbie Byrd, Kathy Rawls, Mike Loeffler, Colonel Carter Witten, Sgt. Jason Parker, Bennett Paradis, Lorena de la Garza, Joe Facendola, Charlie Deaton, Jason Rock, Jason Peters, Kristina Flanigan, Chloe Dorin, Casey Silva.

Public: Brian Hensky, Nancy Eden, Stanley Pierce.

The Habitat & Water Quality AC had eight members present at the start of the meeting and a quorum was met.

Habitat & Water Quality AC Chair Doug Rader called the meeting to order at 06:01 p.m. The full meeting recording can be viewed [here](#).

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Scott Leahy and seconded by Mark Sondar. The motion passed unanimously.**

**PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT EASTERN OYSTER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 5**

Eastern Oyster species leads Joe Facendola and Bennett Paradis gave a presentation on draft Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and the Division of Marine Fisheries preliminary recommendations for that plan.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)





JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
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KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

### **PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT HARD CLAM FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 3**

Hard Clam species leads Lorena de la Garza and Jeff Dobbs gave a presentation on draft Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3 and the Division of Marine Fisheries preliminary recommendations for that plan.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A public comment period began at 7:24 p.m. and ended at 7:27 p.m. One member of the public, Nancy Eden, provided public comment.

[View the video recording of the public comment period.](#)

### **VOTE TO RECOMMEND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**

Chair Rader opened the floor to discuss potential management options for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3.

**Motion by Scott Leahy to recommend that the MFC adopt the strategies proposed by the Division in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Management issue paper (DORAs, Cultch-Supported Harvest, and Rotational Cultch Sites), and to recommend that the MFC ask the Division to further explore potential options and develop a solution to quantify recreational shellfish participation and landings, with the intent to move towards a stock assessment and stock level management for both hard clam and oysters; and to establish a mechanism to provide all recreational shellfish harvester with Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality health and safety information outside of the FMP process. Second by Cate Arnold. Motion passes 8-0.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Lisa Rider that the AC supports the expansion of monitoring efforts and the establishment of sentinel sites as a critical step in validating the success of FMPs, and to prioritize the proper funding and partnerships with research institutions. Second by Nathan Hall. Motion passes 8-0.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

**Motion by Scott Leahy to endorse the Division's recommendation in the Mechanical Clam Harvest Issue Paper (option 3 and 4). Second by David Glenn. Motion passes 8-0.**

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

### **ISSUES FROM AC MEMBERS**

Jesse Bissette gave updates concerning the recent MFC business meeting and plans for future meetings.

[View the video recording of this update.](#)

**Doug Rader motioned to adjourn. Motion passed by unanimous consent.** The meeting ended at 08:26 p.m.