Motions N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission March 12-13, 2025

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Motion by Commissioner Roller to	ROLL CALL VOTE						
approve the meeting agenda.	Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent	
Second by Commissioner Rader.	Bethea	\boxtimes					
occorra by commiscioner readen	Blanton	\boxtimes					
Motion passed unanimously.	Closs	\boxtimes					
	Gardner	\boxtimes					
	Hobgood	\boxtimes					
	Rader	\boxtimes					
	Roller	\boxtimes					
	Service						

Corbett

X

Motion by Commissioner Roller to approve the November 2024 business meeting minutes.

Second by Commissioner Rader.

Motion passed unanimously.

		ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent		
Bethea	\boxtimes						
Blanton	\boxtimes						
Closs	\boxtimes						
Gardner	\boxtimes						
Hobgood	\boxtimes						
Rader	\boxtimes						
Roller	\boxtimes						
Service	\boxtimes						
Corbett	\boxtimes						

Motion by Commissioner Gardner for the MFC to send a letter of support for Amendment 59 to the FMP for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (red snapper).

Second by Commissioner Blanton.

Motion passed unanimously.

		ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent		
Bethea	\boxtimes						
Blanton	\boxtimes						
Closs	\boxtimes						
Gardner	\boxtimes						
Hobgood	\boxtimes						
Rader	\boxtimes						
Roller	\boxtimes						
Service	\boxtimes						
Corbett	\boxtimes						

RULEMAKING

Motion by Commissioner Blanton
to approve final adoption of
amendment to 15A NCAC 03J
.0301 to simplify pot marking
requirements.

Second by Commissioner Rader. Motion passed unanimously.

	ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent	
Bethea	\boxtimes					
Blanton	\boxtimes					
Closs	\boxtimes					
Gardner	\boxtimes					
Hobgood	\boxtimes					
Rader	\boxtimes					
Roller	\boxtimes					
Service	\boxtimes					
Corbett	\boxtimes					

Motion by Commissioner Roller to approve final adoption of 15A NCAC 03M .0523 for false albacore management.

Second by Commissioner Rader. Motion passed 5-4.

		ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent		
Bethea		\boxtimes					
Blanton		\boxtimes					
Closs	\boxtimes						
Gardner		\boxtimes					
Hobgood	\boxtimes						
Rader	\boxtimes						
Roller	\boxtimes						
Service	\boxtimes						
Corbett		\boxtimes					

Motion by Commissioner Roller to approve final adoption of 15A NCAC 03O .0601-.0606 for Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

Second by Commissioner Rader.

Motion passed unanimously.

		ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent		
Bethea	\boxtimes						
Blanton	\boxtimes						
Closs	\boxtimes						
Gardner	\boxtimes						
Hobgood	\boxtimes						
Rader	\boxtimes						
Roller	\boxtimes						
Service	\boxtimes						
Corbett	\boxtimes						

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS EASTERN OYSTER FMP AMENDMENT 5

Motion by Commissioner Service to select as the MFC's preferred management option for the draft N.C. Eastern Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5 for:

• MECHANICAL HARVEST:

Deep-Water Oyster Recovery Areas:
 Adopt the proposed Pamlico and Neuse River Deep-water Oyster Recovery Areas (DORAs) as shown in Figure 2.7 on page 83 of the draft FMP.

Second by Commissioner Roller.

		ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent		
Bethea							
Blanton							
Closs							
Gardner							
Hobgood							
Rader							
Roller							
Service							
Corbett							

Motion by Commissioner Blanton to amend the previous motion by the MFC selecting as its preferred management option for the Deep-Water Oyster Recovery Areas as follows:

MECHANICAL HARVEST:

 Deep-Water Oyster Recovery Areas: c. Adopt smaller proposed Pamlico and Neuse River Deepwater Oyster Recovery Areas (DORAs), which are bound by existing navigational aids, to protect deep subtidal oyster reefs from continued physical disturbance by mechanical gear. These areas will be closed to mechanical oyster dredging and monitoring efforts will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of closure within the next FMP amendment. The smaller DORAs cover 271 acres of potential habitat (200 acres in Pamlico River and 71 acres in Neuse River), which represents only approximately 32% of the vulnerable habitat.

Second by Commissioner Bethea.
Motion to amend passed 5-4.

		ROLL CALL VOTE					
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent		
Bethea	\boxtimes						
Blanton	\boxtimes						
Closs	\boxtimes						
Gardner	\boxtimes						
Hobgood		\boxtimes					
Rader		\boxtimes					
Roller		\boxtimes					
Service		\boxtimes					
Corbett	\boxtimes						

Motion by Commissioner Roller to offer a substitute motion for the MFC to select the DMF recommendation as the MFC's preferred management option for the draft N.C. Eastern Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5, as follows for:

• MECHANICAL HARVEST:

 Deep-Water Oyster Recovery Areas: b. Adopt the proposed Pamlico and Neuse River Deep-water Oyster Recovery Areas (DORAs), which are bound by existing navigational aids as presented to the NC MFC regional Advisory Committees, to protect deep subtidal oyster reefs from continued physical disturbance by mechanical gear. These areas will be closed to mechanical oyster dredging and monitoring efforts will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of closure within the next FMP amendment. The DORAs cover 681 acres of potential oyster habitat (500 acres in Pamlico River and 180 acres in Neuse River), which represents approximately 81% of the vulnerable deep-water oyster habitat.

Second by Commissioner Rader.	
Substitute motion passed 5-4.	

	ROLL CALL VOTE						
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent		
Bethea		\boxtimes					
Blanton		\boxtimes					
Closs	\boxtimes						
Gardner		\boxtimes					
Hobgood	\boxtimes						
Rader	\boxtimes						
Roller	\boxtimes						
Service	\boxtimes						
Corbett		\boxtimes					

Motion as substituted by Commissioner Roller for the MFC to select the DMF recommendation as the MFC's preferred management option for the draft N.C. Eastern Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5, as follows for:

• MECHANICAL HARVEST:

 Deep-Water Oyster Recovery Areas: b. Adopt the proposed Pamlico and Neuse River Deep-water Oyster Recovery Areas (DORAs), which are bound by existing navigational aids as presented to the NC MFC regional Advisory Committees, to protect deep subtidal oyster reefs from continued physical disturbance by mechanical gear. These areas will be closed to mechanical oyster dredging and monitoring efforts will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of closure within the next FMP amendment. The DORAs cover 681 acres of potential oyster habitat (500 acres in Pamlico River and 180 acres in Neuse River), which represents approximately 81% of the vulnerable deep-water oyster habitat.

r.

Main motion as substituted passed 5-4.

		R	OLL CA	LL VOTE	
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea		\boxtimes			
Blanton		\boxtimes			
Closs	\boxtimes				
Gardner		\boxtimes			
Hobgood	\boxtimes				
Rader	\boxtimes				
Roller	\boxtimes				
Service	\boxtimes				
Corbett		\boxtimes			

Motion by Commissioner Roller to select the DMF recommendations as the MFC's preferred management options for the remaining management measures in the draft N.C. Eastern Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5, which are as follows for:

• RECREATIONAL HARVEST: b. Support the DMF to further explore potential options and develop a solution to estimate recreational shellfish participation and landings, and to establish a mechanism to provide all recreational shellfish harvesters with Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality health and safety information outside of the FMP process.

MECHANICAL HARVEST:

- Cultch Supported Harvest: b. Adopt the Cultch Supported Harvest strategy outlined in Appendix 2, which would set the season length based on pre-season sampling aided by industry input on sampling locations with the 10 bushel per day and 15 bushel per day areas considered separately.
- Rotational Harvest Cultch Sites: b. Adopt the inclusion of Rotational Harvest Cultch Sites strategy outlined in Appendix 2. This strategy would create a rotating series of readily available cultch areas available to harvest for the full extent of the mechanical season length each year with the intent of reducing harvest pressure on natural reefs.
- Adaptive Management for Cultch: b.
 Adopt the proposed adaptive management framework to allow for modification of set season length based on changes to participation in the fishery.

Second by Commissioner Service.

Motion passed 8-1.

	ROLL CALL VOTE				
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea		\boxtimes			
Blanton	\boxtimes				
Closs	\boxtimes				
Gardner	\boxtimes				
Hobgood	\boxtimes				
Rader	\boxtimes				
Roller	\boxtimes				
Service	\boxtimes				
Corbett	\boxtimes				

(End of actions on March 12, 2025)

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS (CONTINUED) HARD CLAM FMP AMENDMENT 3

Motion by Commissioner Roller to select the DMF recommendations as the MFC's preferred management options for the draft N.C. Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3, which are as follows for:

- RECREATIONAL HARVEST: b. Support the DMF to further explore potential options and develop a solution to estimate recreational shellfish participation and landings, and to establish a mechanism to provide all recreational shellfish harvesters with Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality health and safety information outside of the FMP process.
- MECHANICAL CLAM HARVEST: d. Phase out mechanical clam harvest in three years (May 2028) to be consistent with G.S. 113-221 (d).
- MECHANICAL CLAM HARVEST IN CONJUNCTION WITH MAINTENANCE DREDGING: b. Discontinue allowance for mechanical clam harvest in conjunction with maintenance dredging upon adoption of this plan.

Second by Commissioner Service

Motion passed 5-4.

	ROLL CALL VOTE				
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea		\boxtimes			
Blanton		\boxtimes			
Closs		\boxtimes			
Gardner	\boxtimes				
Hobgood	\boxtimes				
Rader	\boxtimes				
Roller	\boxtimes				
Service	\boxtimes				
Corbett		\boxtimes			

SOUTHERN FLOUNDER FMP AMENDMENT 4

Motion by Commissioner Roller to approve the draft N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4 for public and MFC advisory committee review.

Second by Commissioner Service.

Motion passed 5-4.

	ROLL CALL VOTE				
Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Bethea	\boxtimes				
Blanton		\boxtimes			
Closs	\boxtimes				
Gardner		\boxtimes			
Hobgood	\boxtimes				
Rader		\boxtimes			
Roller	\boxtimes				
Service	\boxtimes				
Corbett		\boxtimes			

SPOTTED SEATROUT FMP AMENDMENT 1

Motion by Commissioner Blanton to **ROLL CALL VOTE** give approval to adopt the N.C. Member Aye Nay Abstain Recuse Absent Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Bethea \boxtimes Plan Amendment 1 as presented, Blanton Xexcluding the commercial slot limit and Closs \boxtimes the elimination of the captain and crew Gardner \boxtimes limit. Hobgood \boxtimes Second by Commissioner Gardner. Rader XRoller \boxtimes

Motion passed 5-3 with one

abstention.

(End of actions on March 13, 2025)

Service

Corbett

X

X