

MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING
Crystal Coast Civic Center, Morehead City, N.C.
May 18-20, 2016

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).

May 18

6 p.m.

Public Meeting

Receive public comment relative to any fisheries management issues

May 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

10:15 a.m.

NOAA Fisheries 2016 Recreational Cobia Season – Michelle Duval (Presentation)

- Review public comment
- Review 2016 harvest options
- **Vote on possible changes to cobia harvest restrictions****

11:15 a.m.

Chairman's Report

- Letters
- Ethics Training Reminder
- 2016 Meeting Schedule Reminder

11:30 a.m.

Committee Reports

- Northern
- Southern
- Shellfish/Crustacean
- Finfish
- Oyster and Hard Clam Fishery Management Plans
- Sea Turtle
- Coastal Recreational Fishing License – Beth Govoni
- Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Conference Committee – Jimmy Johnson

Noon

Lunch Recess

1:30 p.m.

Blue Crab Traffic Light Assessment Update – Jason Rock and Corrin Flora (Presentation)

Review updated information incorporating 2015 data into the traffic light assessment, along with the suite of potential adaptive management measures

- **Vote to select adaptive management measures****

2:30 p.m.

Fishery Management Plan Update – Catherine Blum

- Status of ongoing plans

- 2:45 p.m. Total Allowable Landings for Pound Nets by Waterbodies for Supplement A to the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1 – Mike Loeffler and Chris Stewart (Presentation)
- 3:45 p.m. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4 and Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2 – Tina Moore and Joe Facendola (Presentation)
- Review advisory committee and public input on lowering the daily oyster harvest limit for the Shellfish License statewide
 - **Vote on approval of draft plans to send to the Department of Environmental Quality and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations for review and comment****
- 4:15p.m. Rulemaking Update – Catherine Blum
- 2015/2016 rulemaking cycle
 - 2016/2017 rulemaking cycle
 - Issue paper review:
 - Development of a Permit to Allow Weekend Trawling to Take Live Shrimp
 - Spiny Dogfish Dealer Permit
 - Proposed Rule Changes for Convictions of Larceny Related to Fishing Gear or Convictions of Injuring/Destroying/ Stealing Fishing Gear
 - Correction of Wade Creek Primary Nursery Area Boundary Line
 - Clarification of License Requirements for Leaseholder Designees
- 5 p.m. Recess

May 20

- 8:30 a.m. Rules Suspensions – Kathy Rawls
The commission must vote to continue rule suspensions that have occurred since its last meeting:
- **Vote on any rule suspension for a portion of 15A NCAC 03M .0516 COBIA regarding possession limits. ****
 - **Vote on any rule suspension for a portion of 15A NCAC 03M .0503 FLOUNDER regarding ocean-caught flounder season. ****
- 8:45 a.m. Director’s Report
Reports and updates on recent Division of Marine Fisheries activities
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – Michelle Duval and Chris Batsavage
 - Weakfish Stock Assessment – Chris Batsavage
 - Red Drum Stock Assessment – Lee Paramore
 - Informational Materials
 - Striped Bass
 - Rule Suspension Notices/No Action Required
 - Quota Update
 - Landings Update
 - Protected Resources Update
 - Observer Program
 - Incidental Take Permit Updates
 - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Update
 - South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Update
 - Highly Migratory Species
- 10:30 a.m. Issues from Commissioners
- 11 a.m. Meeting Assignments and Preview of Agenda Items for August Meeting – Nancy Fish
- 11:45 a.m. Adjourn

2016 Meeting Dates

Feb. 17-19 Blockade Runner, Wrightsville Beach
Aug. 17-19 Hilton Brownstone, Raleigh

May 18-20 Crystal Coast Civic Center, Morehead City
Nov. 16-18 Hilton Garden Inn, Kitty Hawk

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

****Potential Action Items**