

## MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission and Commercial Fishing Resource Funding Committee

FROM: Beth Govoni,  
Division of Marine Fisheries

DATE: April 28, 2017

SUBJECT: Commercial Fishing Resource Funding Committee Meeting

The Marine Fisheries Commission Commercial Fishing Resource Funding Committee met with the Funding Committee at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality Washington Regional Office. The following attended:

Commercial Fishing Resource Funding Committee: Sammy Corbett – chair, Janet Rose, and Alison Willis (via phone)

Funding Committee: Gilbert Baccus, Doug Todd, Bill Hooper, Andrew Berry, Ernest Doshier, and Benny O’Neal

DMF Staff – Dee Lupton, Nancy Fish, Beth Govoni, Katy West

Public: Steve Weeks, Sandy Semans Ross

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Sammy Corbett, serving as chair, called the meeting to order.

**Bill Hooper made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Gilbert Baccus seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**Bennie O’Neal made a motion to approve the January 4, 2017 meeting minutes. Bill Hooper seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

**Sandy Semans Ross** – Spoke on behalf of Outer Banks Catch and had concerns about the balance that is in the Marine Resources Fund. She also brought up Sport Fish Restoration Fund

and assent legislation and how that relates to the Recreational Commercial Gear License. Staff advised that they would have follow up on this.

**Steve Weeks** – Stated that he holds a Commercial Fishing License and owns interest in seafood company with a dealer’s license. He also advised that he is an attorney that represents the fisheries association in both Carteret County and in North Carolina. He said he is very familiar with the background of the Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Statute since he was one of the original authors. He advised that he had issues with several parts of the proposed memorandum of understanding and proceeded to identify those issues:

- 1a: “Marine Fisheries Commission members of this committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Commission.” He requested that instead the document should read that the members of the committee shall be the three commercial seats of the Marine Fisheries Commission.
- 3: Requested that there be no minimum balance in the fund.
- 7,8,9: Requested to remove 7,8, and 9 and use the verbiage from statute (“Fund may be used for other projects to develop and support sustainable commercial fishing in the State.”)
- Requested to add “Whereas, the Joint Committee may confer with the Director on the most economical methods to fully fund the state’s Incidental Take Permits for the commercial and recreational commercial fishing interests under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 or the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972; however, the final decision will rest with the Director”

Chairman Corbett ended the public comment and the Marine Fisheries Commission Commercial Fishing Resource Funding Committee and the Funding Committee deliberated on the comments made by Mr. Weeks. One point that the groups could not agree was the request to add “Whereas, the Joint Committee may confer with the Director on the most economical methods to fully fund the state’s Incidental Take Permits for the commercial and recreational commercial fishing interests under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 or the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972; however, the final decision will rest with the Director”

At this point, Chairman Corbett requested that Phillip Reynolds, the Commission’s General Counsel, call into the meeting for further discussion of Mr. Weeks’ edits.

**Motion by Alison Willis to support changes proposed by funding committee with exception of adding the paragraph which begins “whereas, the Joint Committee may confer with the Director on the most economical methods to fully fund the state’s Incidental Take Permits for the commercial and recreational fishing interest under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 or the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972; however, the final decision will rest with the Director” and add section that addendum may be added to MOU. Seconded by Janet Rose. Motion carries.**



The determination was made that since the edited document had not been provided to the Commission members nor staff prior to the meeting, that there would need to be additional review and discussion before the document could be finalized.

**Alison Willis made motion to reconsider the previous motion. Second by Janet Rose. Motion carries. Alison Willis withdraws motion from further consideration.**

Phillip Reynolds and Steve Weeks will meet and discuss the draft memorandum of understanding over the next week or two.

Meeting adjourned at 1:13 pm.

