

Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting Minutes
Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center
Williamston, North Carolina
Feb. 20-22, 2019

The commission held a business meeting Feb. 20-22 at the Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center in Williamston, North Carolina.

The briefing book, presentations and audio from this meeting can be found at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/02-2019-briefing-book>.

Actions and motions from the meeting are listed in **bolded** type.

BUSINESS MEETING - MOTIONS AND ACTIONS

On Feb. 20, a public comment session was held beginning at 6 p.m. Chairman Rob Bizzell called the meeting to order. The following individuals spoke:

Larry Boomer, a Hyde County recreational fisherman, talked about recreational flounder fishing. He said anglers can only keep four fish while commercial harvest is unlimited. The stock has been overfished since 1993 and this makes no sense, he said. He feels recreational fishermen are the whipping boy of the Division of Marine Fisheries and he recommended a quota to reduce overfishing and that recreational fishermen should get half of the quota. Boomer closed by saying a gill net ban was the solution to the problem.

William Harris, an avid recreational fisherman that lives in Greenville, but fishes in Hyde County, was concerned recreational fishermen were limited in their harvest, but commercial fishermen were not. He said recreational fishermen put money into the economy and that the amount of shrimp trawling in Pamlico Sound needs to be reduced.

William Hopkins, who has fished commercially and recreationally and has owned fish camps in Louisiana, said there was a better way to make a living than using destructive gear. Hopkins said commercial fishermen can make money as fishing guides and that fish stocks have rebounded in other states where commercial fishing gear has been removed from the water.

Bert Owens, a recreational fisherman from Beaufort, said Louisiana has a bigger commercial fishery than North Carolina. He said the commission has tried to do good and that they passed a supplement for flounder that was stopped in court, and flounder is still overfished. The red drum fishery is steady but has been rebuilt on the backs of recreational fishermen. He also talked about seatrout anglers cut from 10 fish to 4 fish and that commercial fishermen can keep 75 fish now. Owens said the Fisheries Reform Act specified that the commission must manage for commercial and recreational fishermen, but that is not the case. He closed by encouraging the commission to get gill nets off striped bass and not implementing a moratorium for anglers.

Randy Wood said he was too old to follow a PowerPoint but noticed there was a line we didn't want to go below, so the state lowered the line. He offered that maybe the commission should get help from the Environmental Defense Fund. He said one striped bass was worth more

recreationally than commercially and that the recreational industry contributes more to the economy. Wood said things he recommended doing was eliminate gill nets, kill cormorants, make striped bass a game fish and allow fishermen to keep the first four fish they catch and then they would have to stop fishing.

Steve Braddy said years ago, when there was a lot of seaweed, the stocks were healthy. He encouraged the commission to work on restoring grasses that give off oxygen to improve the fisheries.

Eric Braddy talked about water quality being the problem, not commercial or recreational fishermen. He challenged the commission to take greater responsibility with the environment and focus on water quality and habitat. He said farmers focus on soil, fishermen should focus on water quality.

Glenn Skinner, Executive Director of the N.C. Fisheries Association, said his organization supported the supplement for striped bass if the Wildlife Resources Commission supported the same restrictions and move to protect the spawning grounds for striped bass. He said for the next Shrimp Fishery Management Plan Amendment, the only goal should be to look for ways to reduce bycatch. For striped bass, he said the state has not found a way to reduce recreational harvest and the resulting dead discards, while commercial landings and discards have decreased in most cases.

Stuart Creighton, a recreational fisherman from Oriental, said that the commission needs to address commercial dead discards. The statistics being used by the division came from observer coverage that was at the 3% level, when it should have been 7% to 10% level and the information had high error values. Creighton said gill nets should be removed above the ferry lines, and that the division had found ways to ignore the overharvest of flounder for 30 years and it needed to be addressed.

David Sneed, Executive Director of the CCA-NC, handed out a chart that showed expected Nov. 1, 2019 recreational fish limits for Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. He said recreational fishermen are willing to take cuts, but if North Carolina is willing to allow trawling and gill nets in state waters, then those recreational fishermen will go to other states to fish until North Carolina learns to manage properly. He closed by saying North Carolina was first in bycatch and the state needs to get trawlers out of nursery areas and gill nets out of the water.

The meeting recessed at 6:20 p.m.

Chairman Rob Bizzell convened the Marine Fisheries Commission business meeting at 9 a.m. on Feb. 21 and reminded commissioners of their conflict of interest and ethics requirements.

The following commission members were in attendance: Rob Bizzell-Chairman, Mike Blanton, Cameron Boltes, Doug Cross, Tom Hendrickson, Pete Kornegay, Brad Koury, Chuck Laughridge and Sam Romano.

**Motion by Tom Hendrickson to approve agenda. Second by Chuck Laughridge.
Motion carries with no opposition.**

Motion by Chuck Laughridge to approve minutes from the November 2018 meeting. Second by Brad Koury.
Motion carries with no opposition.

Public Comment Period

Chris McCaffity, a commercial fisherman from Carteret County, asked the commission to ask the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to ask for one round of seismic testing to see what is out there, rather than five rounds, and make the findings public. He said platforms can be a good attracter for fish but it needs to be looked at in a transparent manner.

Joe Albea, with the N.C. Coastal Fisheries Reform Group, walked the commission through a management plan the group was proposing for spotted seatrout, that was based on what Florida had done to manage its spotted seatrout fishery. Albea's comments were followed by members of the group expressing various reasons why they thought their plan was needed.

Richard Andrews, a full-time fishing guide from Bath, said we need a healthy, sustainable fishery for stopped seatrout and the existing fishery is not consistent. If fish are wiped out overnight, it hurts tourism and one commercial fisherman can wipe out a school that a fishing guide could enjoy all season. Due to weather and poor management the fish are being wiped out and the state needs to be more proactive.

Dwayne Bevell, with E-Z Bait & Tackle in Goldsboro, said 40% of his business was from folks buying tackle to catch spotted seatrout and that the state was wasting a natural resource. The goal should be to survive and thrive and leave a legacy for the children, but his dream may not be possible with the current management of this stock.

Dave Sammons, from Wilmington, moved to the area four years ago and was excited because he heard the fishing for spotted seatrout was great. He was disappointed to learn the fishery was in decline and the catch limit was embarrassing compared to other states. He said he witnessed a fight between a recreational and commercial fisherman and said the resource belongs to the citizens. He proposed that only hook-and-line gear be allowed to harvest spotted seatrout.

Ricky Kellum, from Swansboro, has run charters out of New River for over 40 years and specializes in spotted seatrout. He said people come from all over to fish and North Carolina has the potential to be a world class fishing destination, but he cautioned this fishery can get wiped out overnight and different management strategies are needed.

Bob Dillard, from Oriental, was concerned for the resource and has fished for over 70 years. He said that to help striped bass, he would like to see gill nets and dead discards controlled above the ferry lines.

Chris Elkins, with the CCA – NC, said he remains convinced that the major factor in the decline of striped bass is gill net regulatory discards and he feels like the tie down line would be a more appropriate closure line to maximize conservation and that a tagging study should be done to better understand the movement and range of these fish. He said the division is asking recreational fishermen to endure a moratorium while allowing the major culprit, gill nets, to

continue to kill stocked fish. Elkins also talked about preventing recreational fishing but allowing netting being the antithesis of the USFWS stocking program mission.

Blakley Hildebrand, with the Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of the N.C. Wildlife Federation, expressed disappointment about the division's handling of the fiscal note for the federation's petition for rulemaking. She said the petition proposed common sense, research-based strategies to protect and conserve important natural resources. In spite of the division opposing the petition, the commission granted it and tasked the division with developing a fiscal analysis. The division produced a legally and technically deficit document which included outlandish estimates, she said. It is no surprise the Office of State Budget and Management declined to certify the analysis. She said the division sought to block the petition through the fiscal analysis process, but that cannot happen. She emphasized it is in the commission authority to adopt rules; the commission must complete the rulemaking process; and the public deserves the chance to comment on the rules. She said the commission should send the fiscal note back to the division to address the deficiencies.

Terry Pratt, with Albemarle Sound Fisheries Association, said he supported Glenn Skinner's earlier comments and that there was an abundance of river herring at or above historical levels and that the moratorium should be lifted. He said there will not be a wild rush to participate in the fishery because there are few processors or fishermen left. Pratt advised a resource is only a resource if you use it. He closed by saying the division staff did a great job of the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan and it all begins on the land.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bizzell reviewed correspondence that had been sent and received by the commission since the last business meeting and the commission was reminded of their ethics education requirements and the April 15 deadline to file their Statement of Economic Interest.

Commissioners were reminded of the meeting schedule for 2019:

- Feb. 20-22 in Williamston
- May 15-17 in Morehead City/New Bern area
- Aug. 21-23 in Raleigh area
- Nov. 13-15 in Morehead City/New Bern area

The 2019 committee assignments for commissioners was included in the briefing materials and commissioners were asked to review and let the chairman know if they had any questions or concerns.

WRC/MFC Joint Committee on Delineation of Fishing Waters

Chairman Bizzell provided an overview of the first meeting of the WRC/MFC Joint Committee on Delineation of Fishing Waters that was held on Jan. 23 at Craven Community College in New Bern. The committee was formed to help integrate the work of the two commissions as they fulfill their statutory responsibilities to jointly determine the boundaries that define Inland, Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters. The first meeting was primarily an organizational, to look at timelines and meeting schedules and review background and statutory charges. The committee agreed that meeting monthly or bi-monthly would be necessary to meet deadlines. The next Joint Committee meeting will be March 21 at 1 pm at WRC Headquarters, 1751 Varsity Drive, in Raleigh. The committee will alternate meeting locations between Raleigh and the coast.

Proposed Legislative Changes

Chairman Bizzell presented the commission with concepts of proposed legislative changes for G.S. 113-168.2 and 113-169.3 related to commercial fishing licenses. The commission supported the concept of legislation to amend GS 113-168.2 (i) to require reporting of all catch with commercial gear (except for harvest under a Recreational Commercial Gear License) and through tournaments.

Motion by Chuck Laughridge to support the concept of legislation to require reporting of all catch with commercial gear, except for RCGL, and through tournaments. Second by Mike Blanton.

Amendment by Doug Cross to add general statute to original motion. Second by Tom Hendrickson.

Motion carries with no opposition.

Motion as amended

Motion by Chuck Laughridge to support the concept of legislation to amend GS 113-168.2 (i) to require reporting of all catch with commercial gear, except for RCGL, and through tournaments. Second by Mike Blanton.

Motion carries with no opposition.

Commission Liaison Nancy Fish will work with the chairman to send a letter to the General Assembly supporting the concept of the legislation

Illustration of Definition of Overfished and Overfishing

To aid the commission is carrying out its duties and responsibilities, Chairman Bizzell offered an illustration on the meanings of overfish/overfishing is occurring.

Fiscal Analysis of Rules Associated with N.C. Wildlife Federation's Petition for Rulemaking

Chairman Bizzell asked commission counsel Shawn Maier to explain the status of the N.C. Wildlife Federations' petition for rulemaking and the associated fiscal note. Maier reviewed the timeline of the petition from when it was submitted to when it was granted by the commission, along with the various opportunities where the public commented on the petition. Once the petition was granted, the division began the rulemaking process, which starts with the drafting of a fiscal note, Maier explained. The division was in contact with OSBM during the development of the analysis. Once completed, the fiscal note was submitted to OSBM. OSBM has responded that it could not certify the note because the state agency lacked the funds to implement the rules. A certified fiscal analysis is a requirement of Chapter 150B and is needed to be able to publish notice of text and move forward with the rulemaking process. Maier advised that the petition is done and the process had stopped. He said the commission had done what it was required to do in Chapter 150B, which was initiate the rulemaking process. He told the commission if there are parts of the petition it wants to move forward, that while the petition process has stopped, the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan process is ongoing and there are opportunities to take the ideas from the petition and include them in that process.

Commissioner Laughridge felt that the commission would have to vote for the petition to end or that the commission could vote for the petition to move forward and he questioned why that

could not be done. He said he felt like what was offered as the fiscal note was more of a position statement by the division.

The chairman recognized John Batherson, the division's counsel from the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of General Counsel. Batherson concurred with the commission counsel's assessment of the rulemaking process and the conclusions of law. He said the division had received many criticisms of the fiscal note, but the department rejects those claims and stands by the division's thoughtful and comprehensive fiscal analysis. The division completely satisfied legal obligations under the Administrative Procedure Act. He noted the division met with OSBM three separate times during the development of the fiscal note and incorporated that agency's feedback and carefully considered comments by the petitioner. Batherson said the division's analysis is reliable and supports OSBM's determination that sufficient state funds are not available to implement the proposed rules without undue detriment to the agency's existing activities.

Commissioner Boltes questioned when the commission was going to have the opportunity to ask questions about the fiscal note and expressed concern that there were no checks and balances with the fiscal note process. Commissioner Hendrickson thanked the counsels for their explanation and advised it was not unique that there was frustration with the process. Commissioner Laughridge thanked both counsels for trying to explain the process and for clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the commission and the division.

Open Meeting Law Overview

Commission Counsel Shawn Maier explained the commission was a public body and was required to conduct public business in an open manner so that the public can observe the proceedings. He went on to state an official meeting was any meeting, assembly or gathering of a majority of commissioners present where the commission is communicating simultaneously whether that is in person, by phone or by email. He offered that the best way to distribute information to the entire commission is to send it through the chairman or staff and that he was available to answer any questions that commissioners may have.

N.C Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Committee

Division staffer William Brantley gave an overview of the Dec. 19, 2018 meeting of the commission's N.C. Commercial Resource Funding Committee. The committee reviewed and approved proposals and Requests for Proposals.

Commissioner Laughridge had questions about the economic impact benefit of one of the proposals and requested the division provide a presentation at the next commission business meeting on how economic impacts in general are calculated.

Amendment 2 to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan

At the November 2018 meeting, a motion from Commissioner Laughridge was tabled related to the goals and objectives for Amendment 2 to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. at this point in the agenda, Commissioner Laughridge announced he was willing to withdraw the tabled motion.

**Motion by Chuck Laughridge to withdraw the motion tabled from the November meeting.
Second by Doug Cross.
Motion carries unanimously.**

After deliberation, the commission voted to refer the N.C. Wildlife Federation's Petition for Rulemaking (excluding aspects pertaining to spot and croaker) to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee for consideration in developing Amendment 2 to the plan and recommend the following goals and objectives for the shrimp plan:

- Reduce takes and interactions of non-targeted species and threatened species.
- Improve the survival of non-target and threatened species at the population level.
- Continue to minimize bycatch and enhance the economic value of shrimp.
- Promote habitat enhancement and provide environmental quality necessary to improve the shrimp resource.
- Review nursery areas with an updated look at secondary nursery areas.
- Implement research and education programs to allow a better understanding of the public, industry and consumers of shrimp bycatch impact on fish population dynamics.

Motion by Chuck Laughridge to refer the Wildlife Federation's Petition for Rulemaking (excluding spot and croaker) to the Shrimp FMP Advisory Committee for consideration in developing Amendment 2 to the FMP and that the goals and objectives for the Shrimp FMP include:

- **Reduce takes and interactions of non-targeted species and threatened species.**
- **Improve the survival of non-target and threatened species at the population level.**
- **Continue to minimize bycatch and enhance the economic value of shrimp.**
- **Promote habitat enhancement and provide environmental quality necessary to improve the shrimp resource.**
- **Review nursery areas with an updated look at secondary nursery areas.**
- **Implement research and education programs to allow a better understanding of the public, industry and consumers of shrimp bycatch impact on fish population dynamics.**

Second by Brad Koury.

Motion by Tom Hendrickson to strike the wording in reference to referring the Wildlife Federation Petition to the Advisory Committee and pick up at "the goals and objectives for the Shrimp FMP include." Second by Doug Cross.

Motion fails 4-4.

Motion by Chuck Laughridge to refer the Wildlife Federation's Petition for Rulemaking (excluding spot and croaker) to the Shrimp FMP Advisory Committee for consideration in developing Amendment 2 to the FMP and to consider the following goals and objectives for the Shrimp FMP:

- **Reduce takes and interactions of non-targeted species and threatened species.**
- **Improve the survival of non-target and threatened species at the population level.**
- **Continue to minimize bycatch and enhance the economic value of shrimp.**
- **Promote habitat enhancement and provide environmental quality necessary to improve the shrimp resource.**
- **Review nursery areas with an updated look at secondary nursery areas.**
- **Implement research and education programs to allow a better understanding of the public, industry and consumers of shrimp bycatch impact on fish population dynamics.**

**Second by Brad Koury.
Motion carries 5-3, with one abstention.**

Commissioner Cross put forward a motion to look at alternated openings of areas that are now closed to trawling to observe if trawling can improve the bottom. The motion was withdrawn and Commissioner Romano advised there were three studies that he felt were relevant to the withdraw motion that he would distribute to the commission.

**Motion by Doug Cross that the Division of Marine Fisheries look at alternated openings of now closed areas to trawling be considered as test sites to observe if trawling and the cultivation of bottom can improve general bottom conditions and improve recruitment of bait fishes and general food sources. Second by Sam Romano.
Motion withdrawn.**

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council

Chris Batsavage, the division's representative on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, updated the commission on the actions of these two boards since February.

Director's Report

Division of Marine Fisheries Director Steve Murphey updated the commission on the status of Amendment 2 to the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan. He explained Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Secretary Michael Regan had asked the division to address additional considerations before presenting its management recommendations to the commission. These considerations are related to the multi-state stock assessment update based on data from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

John Nicholson, DEQ's Chief Deputy Secretary, advised that it was the division's and the department's intent to bring an amendment on southern flounder forward at this meeting, but Secretary Regan took a step back and because this was a multi-state stock, he wanted the division to reach out to the other states to see where they are on flounder management. Nicholson reiterated DEQ supports the science the division has brought forward and they still want to make the timeline to have measures in place for the fall. He said the division was also asked to look at environmental factors impacting the fishery.

Director Murphey then updated the commission on division activities occurring since the November 2018 business meeting, including:

- The naming of Carter Whitten as the new colonel of the Marine Patrol.
- A review of the Hurricane Florence Commercial Fishing Assistance Program. The General Assembly authorized \$11.6 million to compensate commercial fishermen and shellfish harvesters for equipment and income losses from harvest reductions due to Hurricane Florence. Losses from harvest reductions were based on trip tickets compared over a prior comparable period for the months of September, October and November. After a \$250,000 set aside for administrative costs, the following amounts have been distributed:
 - September - \$3,518,500
 - October - \$4,199,500
 - November - \$3,632,000

- Submission of the Shellfish Mariculture Advisory Committee (SMAC) report to the General Assembly. The SMAC's goal was to develop a comprehensive plan to grow the shellfish industry while balancing the needs of diverse North Carolina stakeholders. Director Murphey anticipates that legislation will move forward to implement many of the report's recommendations.
- Continuing work on the Shrimp Bycatch Reduction study combining the Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 studies into one manuscript for peer review. Edits and reviews are occurring internally between the division, Sea Grant and NOAA co-authors.
- Division biologists Laura Lee, Jacob Boyd and Mike Loffler were co-authors on a paper by Dr. Liza Hoos, a Marine Fisheries Management Fellow at CMAST. The paper looked at the effect of time-area closures on the displacement of fishing effort in an estuarine gill fishery and was published in *PLOS One*.

Staff also updated the commission on activities of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Highly Migratory Species.

Status of Rule Development to Clarify Standard Commercial Fishing License Transfers

The commission had expressed interest in clarifying the circumstances under which standard or Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License transfers are allowed. Concern had been raised about third-party transfers allowing individuals to get a license without going through the eligibility board. Stephanie McInerny, the chief of the division's License and Statistics Section, updated the commission on continuing rule development to clarify Standard Commercial Fishing License transfers. The commission requested further refinements be brought back at the February 2019 meeting.

Rulemaking

Catherine Blum, the division's rulemaking coordinator, updated the commission on the status of rulemaking in support of the Period Review and Expiration of Existing Rules per G.S. 150B-21.3A and the division's desire for commission input on the proposed tarpon rule change that will be part of the 2019-2020 annual rulemaking cycle.

The commission voted to go forward with a proposed amendment to Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0509 to make it unlawful to puncture or harvest tarpon, but still allow catch-and-release. The current rule limits tarpon harvest to one fish per person per day by hook-and-line only with no allowance to sell.

Motion by Cameron Boltes to accept Option 2 of the proposed Tarpon Rule. Second by Brad Koury.

Motion carries unanimously.

The meeting recessed for the day.

The meeting reconvened at 9 a.m. on Feb. 22.

Fishery Management Plan Update

Catherine Blum, the division's Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, gave the commission an update on the status of North Carolina's ongoing fishery management plans.

Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3 Update

Jason Rock, one of the co-leads for the Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan, updated the commission on the status of the ongoing plan development and the progress of the advisory committee.

Supplement A to the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1

Charlton Godwin, lead division striped bass biologist, reviewed Supplement A to the Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1, which proposes a temporary management measure for no possession of striped bass in the Central Southern Management Area to protect important year classes while the next fishery management plan amendment is being developed.

Research has shown that striped bass in the Central Southern Management Area are not a self-sustaining population and that fishermen are mainly catching hatchery-raised fish; however, data suggest there have been two recent naturally-spawned year classes. The no-possession management measure will offer additional protection for those non-hatchery fish and protect larger females which could increase natural spawning stock biomass.

The management measure applies to both commercial and recreational fishing in in the Central Southern Management Area, which encompasses all internal waters from just south of Oregon Inlet to the South Carolina line. The waters that will be impacted include, but are not limited to, the Pamlico and Core sounds and the Tar, Pamlico, Pungo, Bay, Neuse and White Oak rivers and their tributaries.

The management change will not impact striped bass fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, Albemarle Sound Management Area, Roanoke River Management Area, and inland waters under the jurisdiction of the N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission. The change also will not impact the Cape Fear River and its tributaries, where a no-possession rule already exists.

The management measure will still allow recreational catch-and-release of striped bass in the impacted areas.

This presentation can be found at:

http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=1169848&folderId=32657012&name=DLFE-140070.pdf

During deliberation, there was discussion about the impacts of discard mortality and the need to protect the two year classes of striped bass moving through the Central Southern Management Area. After deliberation, the commission adopted a no-possession limit for striped bass in internal waters in the central and southern coastal areas of the state.

The commission adopted Supplement A to Amendment 1 to the N. C. Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan, which includes a no-possession limit, which is essentially a year-round closed season. Supplement A is meant to be a temporary restriction to protect possible naturally-spawned year classes of striped bass until Amendment 2 to the N. C. Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan is adopted. Amendment 2 could continue the no-possession provision or recommend other management actions.

Immediately following the vote to adopt Supplement A, the commission voted to ask the director

of the Division of Marine Fisheries to issue a proclamation that restricts the use of gill nets that interact with striped bass upstream of the ferry lines in the rivers and requires attendance of gill nets that interact with striped bass upstream of the tie-down lines.

There was discussion that this issue/vote was not noticed on the agenda, but the chairman said this was not a unique situation and he was going to allow it unless counsel objected.

Discard mortality from recreational hook-and-line fishing and commercial gear in this fishery was discussed, along with the impact of these restrictions on fishermen.

Motion by Doug Cross to adopt Supplement A to Amendment 1 to the N.C. Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan as presented and recommended by the Division of Marine Fisheries. Second by Pete Kornegay.

Motion carries 7-2.

Motion by Cameron Boltes to ask the director of the DMF to issue a proclamation, effective in conjunction with the supplement, that restricts the use of gill nets that interact with striped bass upstream of the ferry lines and requires attendance of gill nets that interact with striped bass upstream of the tie-down lines. Second by Pete Kornegay.

Motion carries 5-4.

Coastal Habitat Protections Plan Overview and Implementation

Jimmy Johnson, DEQ's Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Coordinator, provided the commission with an overview of the plan and implementation highlights.

This presentation can be found at:

http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?p_1_id=1169848&folderId=32657012&name=DLFE-140071.pdf

There were no items brought up under *Issues from Commissioners*.

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

DRAFT