

Chairman's Report

November 2023 Business Meeting

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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.

Since Adobe Flash was terminated on December 31, 2020, our online program is not available. A new and shorter online program will be available in the near future. The new program will be compatible with portable devices such as phones and tablets.

Live webinar presentations are being offered monthly and registration information for the live presentations can be found [here](#). These presentations are about 90 minutes long and give you the opportunity to ask questions of the speaker.

For questions or additional information concerning the Ethics Education requirements, please contact Dottie Benz at (919) 389-1383.

Marine Fisheries Commission 2024 Annual 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		16	17	18	19	20
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	29		

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		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	18	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
26		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	

September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1		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	27			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				

2024 MFC Meeting Dates

MFC Business Meetings

February 21-23
 May 22-24
 August 21-23
 November 20-22

Northern Regional AC

January 9
 April 9
 July 9
 October 8

Southern Regional AC

January 10
 April 11
 July 10
 October 9

Finfish Standing AC

January 11
 April 11
 July 11
 October 10

Shellfish/Crustacean Standing AC

January 16
 April 16
 July 16
 October 15

Habitat and Water Quality Standing AC

January 17
 April 17
 July 17
 October 16

Calendar Key

	MFC		Northern Regional AC
	ASMFC		Southern Regional AC
	SAFMC		Finfish Standing AC
	MAFMC		Habitat and Water Quality Standing AC
	State Holiday		Shellfish/Crustacean Standing AC
			Joint AC Workshop

2023 Committee Assignments for Marine Fisheries Commissioners

08/31/2023

FINFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statutorily required standing committee comprised of commissioners and advisers that considers matters related to finfish.

Commissioners: Tom Roller – co-chair, Mike Blanton – vice chair

DMF Staff Lead: Lee Paramore - lee.paramore@deq.nc.gov

Meeting Frequency: Can meet quarterly, depending on assignments from MFC

HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statutorily required standing committee comprised of commissioners and advisers that considers matters concerning habitat and water quality that may affect coastal fisheries resources.

Commissioners: Doug Rader – chair, Sarah Gardner– vice chair

DMF Staff Lead: Anne Deaton - anne.deaton@deq.nc.gov

Meeting Frequency: Committee can meet quarterly, depending on assignments from MFC. CHPP Steering Committee can meet a couple of times a year.

SHELLFISH/CRUSTACEAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statutorily required standing committee comprised of commissioners and advisers that considers matters concerning oysters, clams, scallops and other molluscan shellfish, shrimp and crabs.

Commissioners: Mike Blanton – chair, Ryan Bethea – co-chair

DMF Staff Lead: Tina Moore - tina.moore@deq.nc.gov

Meeting Frequency: Can meet quarterly, depending on assignments from MFC

CONSERVATION FUND COMMITTEE

Committee comprised of commissioners that makes recommendations to the MFC for administering funds to be used for marine and estuarine resources management, including education about the importance of conservation.

Commissioners: Doug Rader - chair, and Robert McNeill

DMF Staff Lead: Steve Poland – steve.poland@deq.nc.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CIVIL PENALTY COMMITTEE

Statutorily required committee comprised of commissioners that makes final agency decisions on civil penalty remission requests.

Commissioners: Rob Bizzell - chair, Donald Huggins – co-chair

DMF Staff Lead: Col. Carter Witten – carter.witten@deq.nc.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE TRUST COMMITTEE

Committee consisting of the three recreational seats and the science seat to provide the DMF advice on the projects and grants issued using Coastal Recreational Fishing License trust funds.

Commissioners: Robert McNeill– chair, Rob Bizzell, Tom Roller, and Doug Rader

DMF Staff Lead: Paula Farnell – paula.farnell@deq.nc.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Committee comprised of commissioners that makes recommendations to the MFC on at-large and obligatory nominees for the Mid- and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils.

Commissioners: Robert McNeill – chair, Tom Roller – vice chair, Donald Huggins, Sammy Corbett

DMF Staff Lead: Chris Batsavage - chris.batsavage@deq.nc.gov

Meeting Frequency: Typically meets once a year

STANDARD COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE ELIGIBILITY BOARD

Statutorily required three-person board consisting of DEQ, DMF and MFC designees who apply eligibility criteria to determine whether an applicant is eligible for a SCFL.

Commission Designee: Mike Blanton

DMF Staff Lead: Marine Patrol Capt. Garland Yopp – garland.yopp@deq.nc.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets two to three times a year, could need to meet more often depending on volume of applications

N.C. COMMERCIAL FISHING RESOURCE FUND COMMITTEE

Committee comprised of commissioners that the commission has given authority to make funding decisions on projects to develop and support sustainable commercial fishing in the state.

Commissioners: Sammy Corbett - chair, Mike Blanton - vice chair, Ryan Bethea

DMF Staff Lead: William Brantley – william.brantley@deq.nc.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets two to three times a year

WRC/MFC JOINT COMMITTEE ON DELINEATION OF FISHING WATERS

Committee formed to help integrate the work of the two commissions as they fulfill their statutory responsibilities to jointly determine the boundaries that define North Carolina's Inland, Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters as the agencies go through a statutorily defined periodic review of existing rules.

MFC Commissioners: Rob Bizzell, Donald Huggins, Sarah Gardner

DMF Staff Lead: Anne Deaton - anne.deaton@deq.nc.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

SHELLFISH CULTIVATION LEASE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Three-member committee formed to hear appeals of decisions of the Secretary regarding shellfish cultivation leases issued under G.S. 113-202.

MFC Commissioners: Rob Bizzell

DMF Staff Lead: Jacob Boyd – jacob.boyd@deq.nc.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

The CHPP Steering Committee, which consists of two commissioners from the Marine Fisheries, Coastal Management and Environmental Management commissions reviews and approves the plan, recommendations, and implementation actions.

MFC Commissioners: Doug Rader, Donald Huggins

DMF Staff Lead: Anne Deaton – anne.deaton@deq.nc.gov

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

Marine Fisheries Commission 2023-2025 WORKPLAN

INCORPORATING ACTIVITY UNDERWAY AND UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS

General Timelines and Abbreviations	"General Timelines" worksheet for details, Colored blocks below indicate MFC Action Point							(See
Fishery Management Plans	(SA)	SAR	GO	(PD)	AC/Pub	PMO	A	
	Stock Assessment In Progress	Stock Assessment Report Presented to MFC	Vote to Approve Goal and Objectives	Initial Plan Development by DMF/FMP AC	Advisory Committee and Public Review	Select Preferred Management Options	Vote on Final Approval	
Non-FMP Rule Development	R	IP	PR	RLO	PRL			
	Request Issue Development	Information Paper In-Progress	Decision to pursue rulemaking	Issue paper with rule language options In-Progress	Select Preferred Rule Language			
Rulemaking	FA	NOT	NCR/PH/PC	A				
	Fiscal Analysis In-Progress	Approve Notice of Text	Publish in NC Register/Hold Public Hearing&Comment Period	MFC Review Public Comment & Vote on Approval				
MFC Committee Activity	APR	JUL						
	Meeting confirmed and scheduled	Meeting anticipated						

Quarterly Business Meeting

Topic	DMF Staff Lead(s)	Nov - 23	Feb - 24	May - 24	Aug - 24	Nov - 24	Feb - 25	May - 25	Aug - 25
Stock Assessments									
Southern Flounder Stock Assessment Update	Schlick	(SA)	(SA)	SAR					
Blue Crab Stock Assessment Update	Schlick	(SA)	SAR						
Active Management Plans									
Striped Mullet FMP Amendment 2	Zapf/Dobbs	AC/Pub	PMO	A					
Spotted Seatrout FMP Amendment 1	Behringer/Pensingler	(PD)		AC/Pub	PMO	A			
Hard Clam/Oyster	Dobbs/Facendola	G/O	(PD)		AC/Pub	PMO	A		
Status of Commission Requests									
Update False Albacore Information Paper	Seward/Markwith	RLO	PRL						
Federal Permits - Review Feasibility of State Requirements	Murphey/Batsavage/Witten/Poland/Klibansky	IP							
Rulemaking									
18A Rule Readoption - Shellfish Sanitation (85 rules)	Blum/Walsh/Subject Matter Experts	A							
Data Collection and Harassment Prevention for the Conservation of Marine and Estuarine Resources (5 rules)	Blum/Walsh/Subject Matter Experts	A							
Oyster Sanctuary Rule Changes (1 rule)	Blum/Walsh/Subject Matter Experts	A							
Conforming Rule Changes for Shellfish Relay Program and Shellfish Leases and Franchises (12 rules)	Blum/Walsh/Subject Matter Experts	A							
MFC Committees Meetings									
Nominating Committee	(Meeting date(s) in cell) Batsavage/Blum	11-Oct				11-Oct			
Shellfish Cultivation Lease Review Committee	Reynolds								
CHPP Steering Committee	Rader/Blanton/Huggins								
Advisory Committees Activity Overview									
	(Meeting date(s) in cell)	Virtual	In-Person	Virtual	In-person	Virtual	In-Person	Virtual	In-person
Northern Regional Advisory	Godwin/Paramore		JAN	APR	JUL	OCT	JAN	APR	JUL
Southern Regional Advisory	Moore/Stewart		JAN	APR	JUL	OCT	JAN	APR	JUL
Finfish Standing Advisory	Paramore/Rock	No meetings	JAN	APR	JUL	OCT	JAN	APR	JUL
Shellfish/Crustacean Standing Advisory	Moore/Deaton		JAN	APR	JUL	OCT	JAN	APR	JUL
Habitat and Water Quality Standing Advisory	Deaton/Harrison		JAN	APR	JUL	OCT	JAN	APR	JUL