

Committee Reports

November 2023 Business Meeting

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ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

Oct. 20, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

FROM: Chris Batsavage, Special Assistant for Councils

SUBJECT: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat Nominations for North Carolina

Issue

The N.C. General Statutes require the Marine Fisheries Commission to approve nominees for federal fishery management council seats for the governor's consideration, and that the statutes allow the governor to consult with the commission regarding additions to the list of candidates. The governor must nominate no fewer than three individuals for a federal fishery management council seat.

Findings

The Marine Fisheries Commission's Nominating Committee forwarded the following individuals to the Marine Fisheries Commission for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat

- Tom Roller, charter boat captain from Carteret County and the current N.C. at-large member on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Chris Kimrey, charter boat captain from Carteret County
- Mike Oppegaard, charter boat captain from Topsail Island
- Jot Owens, charter boat captain from New Hanover County

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat

- Anna Beckwith, guide service owner from Carteret County
- Stuart Creighton, recreational angler from eastern North Carolina
- Bill Gorham, fishing lure manufacturer owner from Dare County

Action Needed

The commission needs to approve nominees for the N.C. South Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat and the N.C. Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat.

For more information, please refer to:

- The draft minutes from the Oct. 9, 2023 Nominating Committee Meeting
- The nominees' biographies



ROY COOPER
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ELIZABETH S. BISER
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KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission
Marine Fisheries Commission Nominating Committee

FROM: Chris Batsavage and Catherine Blum
Division of Marine Fisheries, DEQ

DATE: Oct. 25, 2023

SUBJECT: Marine Fisheries Commission Nominating Committee Meeting Minutes

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Nominating Committee met on Monday, Oct. 9, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. via webinar.

The following were in attendance:

Committee members: Robert McNeill, Sammy Corbett, Donald Huggins, Tom Roller
Staff: Chris Batsavage, Catherine Blum, Hope Wade

Chairman McNeill called the meeting to order. The agenda was approved without modification.

Motion by Commissioner Roller to approve the October 11, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett.

Roll Call

Sammy Corbett	Aye
Donald Huggins	Aye
Tom Roller	Aye
Robert McNeill	

Motion passed 3-0.

Public comment

No public comment was given at the meeting or received via email or U.S. mail.

Review of N.C. General Statutes and federal Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements

Batsavage briefly reviewed the N.C. General Statutes pertaining to the selection of nominees for federal fishery management council seats. He stated that the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission must approve a slate of candidates for the governor’s consideration, and that the statutes allow the governor to consult with the commission regarding additions to the list of candidates. Batsavage also described the federal statutes and regulations pertaining to qualification of candidates and noted that the governor must submit a list of no less than three nominees for an appointment. The commission will review the list of candidates approved by the committee at its business meeting on Nov. 16-17, 2023.

Review and selection of candidates for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large appointment and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large appointment

Batsavage reviewed the bios of the candidates for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large seat, briefly describing the background and qualifications of each: Thomas (Tom) Roller (incumbent), Christopher (Chris) Kimrey, Michael (Mike) R. Oppegaard, and E. Jot Owens. Batsavage noted that Mr. Roller is completing his first three-year term and is eligible for another three-year term.

Batsavage then reviewed the bios of the candidates for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large seat, briefly describing the background and qualifications of each: Anna Barrios Beckwith, Stuart Creighton, and William (Bill) Gorham. Batsavage noted that Ms. Sara Winslow, the current N.C. At-Large Member on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council is completing her third consecutive three-year term and is not eligible for reappointment.

There was no discussion of the candidates. The committee made the following motions:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat

Motion by Commissioner Corbett to forward the names of Thomas N. Roller, Christopher G. Kimrey, Michael R. Oppegaard, and E. Jot Owens to the Marine Fisheries Commission for consideration for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large seat. Seconded by Commissioner Huggins.

Roll Call

Sammy Corbett	Aye
Donald Huggins	Aye
Tom Roller	
Robert McNeill	Aye

Commissioner Roller recused himself from discussion of the candidates and the vote on this agenda item. Motion passed 3-0.

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-Large Seat

Motion by Commissioner Corbett to forward the names of Anna Barrios Beckwith, Stuart Creighton, and William Gorham to the Marine Fisheries Commission for consideration for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large seat. Seconded by Commissioner Roller.

Roll Call

Sammy Corbett	Aye
Donald Huggins	Aye
Tom Roller	Aye
Robert McNeill	

Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Roller moved to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Huggins.

Meeting adjourned.

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Nominating Committee Meeting

Applicants for At-Large Seat

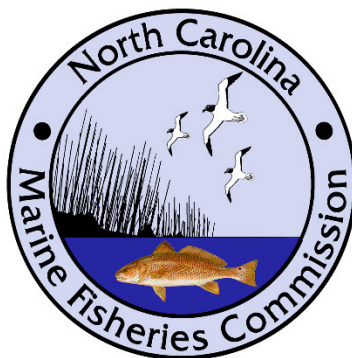
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Thomas N. Roller

Christopher G. Kimrey

Michael R. Oppegaard

E. Jot Owens



October 2023

Mr. Thomas N. Roller

Mr. Roller is the owner and operator of Waterdog Guide Service. For the past 20 years, he has been a full-time nearshore and inshore light tackle and fly-fishing guide operating along the Crystal Coast of North Carolina. Mr. Roller is a licensed U.S. Coast Guard captain with extensive knowledge of southeastern North Carolina's waterways, and spends over 200 days on the water annually with clients. Species managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, including Spanish and king mackerel, amberjack, and many snapper grouper complex species are important mainstays of his guiding business.

Mr. Roller is an active participant in fisheries management, attending meetings and providing input at the state, interstate, and federal levels. Prior to being appointed to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, he served on the Council's Cobia/Mackerel Advisory Panel, Systems Management Plan workgroup and Citizen Science Advisory Panel. As a Council member, Mr. Roller has aspired to take a leadership role in the Council process serving as chair of the SAFMC Mackerel Committee, vice chair of the Dolphin Wahoo Committee and vice chair of the Citizen Science Committee. As an active and engaged Council member, he has served as a liaison to both the Mid-Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils and participated in the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning initiative. In addition, he has been a member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Bluefish AP since 2015.

Mr. Roller is a strong advocate for informed involvement in the management process. In 2017 he completed the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Marine Resource Education Program for the southeast region, participating in two in-depth workshops to advance his knowledge of fisheries science and management. He encourages students to learn about the fisheries management process and regularly serves as a guest speaker and informal mentor to graduate students in the marine science community. Mr. Roller also contributes on-the-water experience to support data collection for management and stock assessment. He volunteered as a field tester to refine the South Atlantic region's electronic for-hire logbook software, and participates in multiple ongoing fish tagging and fin clip studies for the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries as well as the American Saltwater Guides Association.

Mr. Roller is also a longtime participant in North Carolina's state fisheries management process. In August 2023 he was reappointed by Governor Roy Cooper to the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission for his third consecutive term serving in the Recreational Industry seat. Prior to serving on the Commission, he participated on the Blue Crab and Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committees from 2017-2020.

Mr. Roller is a founding member of the American Saltwater Guides Association, a coastwide organization with the mission of promoting sustainable business through marine conservation. He currently serves as an executive board member representing the state of North Carolina, and serves on the organization's policy committee. He was previously a member of the Executive Board of the Coastal Conservation Association of North Carolina from 2014 to January 2020 and served on the organization's Fisheries Committee as chairman from February 2016 to 2018.

Mr. Roller received a B.A. in English and history from Duke University in 2003 and resides in Beaufort, North Carolina.

To: Commissioner Robert McNeill, Chairman, Nominating Committee
North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission
From: Thomas N. Roller

[REDACTED]
Beaufort, NC [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: Consideration for Reappointment to the At-Large Seat of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Dear Commissioner McNeill,

I am pleased to submit my name as a candidate for reappointment to the At-Large seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. My resume and bio are enclosed.

Since 2003 I have been the owner and operator of Waterdog Guide Service. As a professional guide I provide customized inshore and nearshore light tackle and fly-fishing experiences for families and experienced anglers along North Carolina's Crystal Coast. A full-time working waterman and active participant in the management process, I bring a unique and balanced perspective as well as extensive knowledge of North Carolina's diverse recreational and commercial fishing industries.

Our state is blessed with diverse fisheries that range from our inshore estuaries to the Gulf Stream. On any given day, I interact with species managed by the state of North Carolina, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Like many of our state's recreational and for-hire fishermen, I value the opportunity to target a wide variety of species. I understand the importance of access to both our state and federally managed fisheries to businesses and anglers, and this understanding of the bigger picture helps me be a more effective representative for our state's interests.

In addition to my on-the-water and business experience, I bring my strong commitment to being a well-informed stakeholder and representative for the state of North Carolina as a state commissioner and a SAFMC council member. In my first term on the Council I sought opportunities to take on new responsibilities and serve in a leadership role, including as Chair of the Mackerel Committee, which guides the management of two of North Carolina's most important recreational and commercial fisheries. As a Council member I have also been involved in efforts to address emerging challenges through the Council's work on climate change, habitat, and modernizing data collection. I am also personally committed to encouraging the next generation of stakeholders to become involved in the fisheries management process.

I would be honored to continue representing the state of North Carolina on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Roller

THOMAS NATHANIEL ROLLER

Beaufort, NC

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Successful small business owner, for-hire fishing industry leader, and ecotourism professional; U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain with over 20 years of experience.
- Experienced industry leader currently serving on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission; active participant with in-depth knowledge of federal, interstate, and state fisheries management processes.
- Skilled communicator able to facilitate collaboration and compromise with diverse stakeholders and communicate the interests of North Carolina's valuable recreational fishing industry.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Waterdog Guide Service • Beaufort, NC

Founder, owner, and operator • 2003–present

Professional full-time guide providing customized inshore and nearshore light tackle and fly-fishing experiences for families and experienced anglers along North Carolina's Crystal Coast. Expert waterman and ecotourism industry professional averaging 200+ days on the water annually.

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

North Carolina At Large Seat • August 2021—present.

Currently serving as chairman of the Mackerel Cobia Committee, vice chair of the Dolphin/Wahoo Committee, and vice chair of the Citizen Science Committee. Served as a Council liaison to the Gulf of Mexico and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. Active participant in the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning initiative.

North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission

Recreational Industry Seat • Jan. 2020—present. Reappointed August 2023 to third term.

Appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission, the rulemaking commission charged with managing the state's estuarine and marine living resources. Currently serving as chairman of the Finfish Advisory Committee, and member of the Coastal Recreational Fishing License Advisory Committee and the Nominating Committee.

American Saltwater Guides Association (ASGA)

North Carolina Representative & Executive Board Member January 2019—present, Policy Committee Member March 2019—present

Founding member and current voting board member, helping to provide an organized voice for recreational fishing industry with the mission of promoting sustainable business through marine conservation. Active contributor to organizational development of policy positions on fisheries issues at the federal and interstate levels.

Coastal Conservation Association – North Carolina (CCANC)

Executive Board Member January 2014—January 2020, Fisheries Committee Member April 2013—January 2020, Fisheries Committee Chairman February 2015—December 2017

Voting board member, promoting the conservation and sustainable management of inshore fisheries and coastal resources in North Carolina. Developed policy statements on recreational, commercial, and resource management issues for communication with state and federal management agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Scientific Collaborator with the American Saltwater Guide Association

Participating and helping organize multiple data collection programs organized by ASGA including false albacore tagging and genetic sampling and testing of new app-based data collection for valuable east coast fisheries. 2022-present.

Federal and State Fishery Advisory Panels

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

- Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee Member, September 2017—Jan. 2020
- Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee Member, February 2017—Jan. 2020
- Joint Enforcement Agreement working group member, June 2016

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

- Bluefish Advisory Panel, May 2015—present

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

- Electronic For-hire Logbook Field Tester, May 2016—2018
- Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel, March 2017—2021
- Citizen Science Advisory Panel Communication and Outreach Action Team, June 2017—2019
- System Management Plan Workgroup March 2018—2021

Invited Presenter, Data and Management Strategies for Recreational Fisheries with Annual Catch Limits

Committee meeting in support of study convened by the National Academies of Science, September 2020

Graduate, Gulf of Maine Research Institute Marine Resources Education Program – Southeast

- Fisheries Science Workshop, completed May 2017
- Fisheries Management Workshop, completed November 2017

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, 2003 • English and History
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

INDUSTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- U.S. Coast Guard Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel (OUPV) license holder
- North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries licensed for-hire operator
- South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council permitted for-hire operator, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Grouper Snapper Complex and Dolphin/Wahoo fisheries
- National Marine Fisheries Service permitted Highly Migratory Species (HMS) for-hire operator

Christopher G. Kimrey

Mr. Kimrey was enlisted in the United States Navy for 6 years and served as an electronics technician for 5 years, before being honorable discharged due to a service-connected injury. He graduated with honors from Carteret Community College in 2003 with an associate in arts. He is a PADI Certified Rescue Diver and licensed U.S. Coast Guard Captain (OUPV).

Mr. Kimrey has owned and operated Custom Saltwater Taxidermy, creating replicas of fish for customers worldwide since 1997. For the past 16 years he has been a full-time saltwater fishing guide and owner and operator of Mount Maker Charters. Mr. Kimrey has completed the first of 2 sessions of the Marine Resource Education Program with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and is scheduled to complete the 2nd session in the near future (delayed due to COVID-19).

Mr. Kimrey was recently reappointed to the SAFMC Snapper/Grouper advisory panel for his second term and has been an active participant in several tagging projects with N.C. State University, and N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, which included a 3-year acoustic tagging project of Cobia and a 5-year anchor tagging project with weak fish as well as several other cooperative fisheries research programs. He was an active participant in the software pilot program for the For-Hire South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Pilot Project. He has attended various public forums at the State and Federal level pertaining to Marine Fisheries.

Mr. Kimrey has a life-long history of recreational and commercial fishing and a vast knowledge of saltwater fisheries. Many years of following State and Federal fisheries management plans, while spending 200+ days annually on the water gives him a unique and unbiased desire to pursue the conservation of our fisheries.

Michael R Oppegaard

Mr. Oppegaard is a native of Topsail Beach, North Carolina, and a graduate of Topsail High School and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. His family owned the Sound Pier until its sale in 2004 and has spent my entire life on the water.

In 2012, he founded Native Son Guide Service, Inc., a nearshore/inshore fishing guide service that targets red drum, black drum, flounder, speckled trout, king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, black sea bass, sheepshead, cobia, bonito, false albacore, and sharks. He is passionate about sharing his love of fishing with others and is committed to providing his clients with the best possible fishing experience.

Mr. Oppegaard is also actively involved in the management of North Carolina's fisheries. He served on the NC DMF Southern Flounder Advisory Committee and the MAFMC Management Strategy Evaluation for Summer Flounder as a Core Stakeholder. He is committed to working with other stakeholders to ensure the sustainable management of our fisheries for future generations.

E. Jot Owens

Capt. Jot Owens has been in the Southeast North Carolina Fishing industry for over twenty-eight years. Capt. Jot began his fishing career when he was just fourteen years old working at a local fish market and commercial fishing. Commercial fishing included Clamming, Shrimping, Tuna (Blackfin, Bluefin and Yellowfin), Grouper and King Mackerel fishing (Outer Banks to Cape Fear, NC). Jot fished many inshore and offshore tournaments over the years from the Outer Banks to the Florida Keys. In 1995, Jot started as a mate on local charter fishing boats out of Wrightsville Beach, NC. Today, Capt. Jot has managed to translate his lifetime passion for fishing and guiding into his own charter business which he began in 1999 with a USGC Captains License 100-ton six-pack. Guiding for Cobia, King & Spanish Mackerel, Flounder, False Albacore, Grouper, Red drum, Sharks, Speckled trout, and Tarpon. Capt. Jot is one of the very few local native guides of Southeast North Carolina. He is also a Federal and State of North Carolina Finfish Tagger, April 2003 – present Tagging for conservation and scientific research of Cobia, Flounder, Redfish, Speckled Trout, Striped Bass and Sharks.

Capt. Jot is a member of the PENN fishing tackle, Berkley Fishing and Spiderwire's Elite Pro Staff as well as on the research, development, and test team for these companies. He is also honored to be partnered with these great outdoor companies as well MirrOlure, YETI coolers, Power-Pole, Plano, Frabill, Betts Cast-nets, Garmin Marine, SiriusXM Marine, Eagle Claw/Trokar hooks and Smith Optics.

Capt. Jot has been featured on TV shows; Flats Class TV with C.A. Richardson, The World of Saltwater with George Poveromo, Bob Redfern's Outdoor Magazine, National Geographic Wild's (NATGEO) and ESPN's Saltwater Connection. Capt. Jot has been featured in hundreds of fishing magazine articles in Sport Fishing magazine, NC Sportsman magazine and SC Sportsman magazine just to name a few. Capt. Jot is a regular speaker on the Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar series with George Poveromo, as well hosting his own inshore fishing school.

Fisheries organizations and boards:

-Cape Fear River Striped Bass Foundation-To re-establish and maintain the Cape Fear River Fishery, 2008-present

-Tournament Director/Guide Chair for the Cape Fear River Watch Striped Bass Tournament to raise money and awareness in the fish restoration of the Cape Fear River system, 2008-present

-Saltwater Angler & Sportsman (E-magazine) - Board of Directors 2014-present

-Cape Fear River Watch Board of Directors, 2008-2021

-NCDMF Striped Bass FMP Advisor 2021

-WQ4F (Water Quality for Fisheries) Industry Working Group-Water Quality for Fisheries
2021-2022

-North Carolina Sea Grant Advisory Board-Representing Recreational anglers and Charter
(Guides) interest, 2009-2019

-StriperFest Director-Directed all committees for highest grossing fundraiser for Cape Fear River
Watch, 2015.

Jot has recently been appointed to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's System
Management Plan Workgroup.

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Nominating Committee Meeting

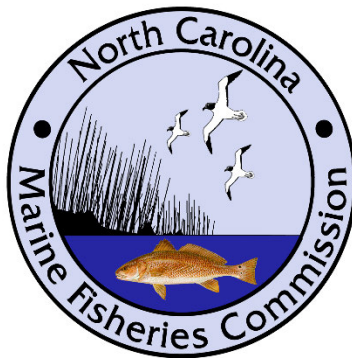
Applicants for At-Large Seat

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Anna Barrios Beckwith

Stuart Creighton

William Gorham



October 2023

Anna Beckwith

Mrs. Beckwith holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Florida International University in Miami, FL and a M.S. degree in Biological Oceanography with a Minor in Geographic Information Science from N.C. State University in Raleigh, NC.

Mrs. Beckwith served three consecutive terms on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Her last term ended August 2021. On the SAFMC she serves as an at-large seat and was chair of the Dolphin/Wahoo, and Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Committees. As Chair of the HMS Committee she also serves on the HMS Advisory Panel for the National Marine Fisheries Service and the ICCAT Advisory Committee. She attended the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) 2014, 2015 and 2016 annual meeting as part of the U.S. delegation. Mrs. Beckwith has also served as liaison to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council on numerous occasions. Mrs. Beckwith has also served as a Council representative on King Mackerel, Cobia, Blueline Tilefish and Red Snapper stock assessments

Mrs. Beckwith served on the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission from 2009 to 2015, serving as Vice-Chair from 2011 to 2015.

Mrs. Beckwith and her husband own Down East Guide Service, a North Carolina recreational fishing guide service and international travel agency for sport fisherman specializing in Costa Rica and Argentina. They are the managing partners of Dragin Fly Sportfishing based out of Los Suenos Marina Costa Rica.

Prior to 2007 Mrs. Beckwith taught Environmental Science and Biology at the high school level and sixth, seventh and eighth grade science in eastern North Carolina. She was a research consultant (post-graduate work) from 2004 through 2006 monitoring red drum spawning habitat using passive acoustics, water quality, and egg/larval monitoring in the Neuse River Estuary, Pamlico River, Pamlico Sound and Ocracoke Inlet.

Previous to pursuing her graduate degree Mrs. Beckwith was employed as Program Manager (1999-2001) for the American Farmland Trust in Washington, DC and was a marine fellow for The Nature Conservancy (1999).

Anna Barrios Beckwith

Experience

- 8/2007 – current Down East Guide Service/Drain Fly Sport fishing
Title: Manager
Assure smooth operation of NC and Costa Rican operations. Manage schedules, budgets, website, customer service etc.
- 8/2012 – 8/2021 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Title: At Large Voting Member
Chair of Dolphin/Wahoo, and HMS Committees. As Chair of the HMS Committee, I also served on the HMS advisory panel for NMFS and on the ICCAT Advisory Committee (*Currently still serving as an advisor*). I attended the ICCAT 2014, 2015 and 2016 annual meeting as part of the US delegation. I also served as a Council representative on King Mackerel, Cobia, Blueline Tilefish and Red Snapper stock assessments. As council liaison to the Gulf of Mexico and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils I typically attended their meetings one per year per council.
- 7/2009 – 7/2015 NC Marine Fisheries Commission Morehead City, NC
Title: At Large Voting Member (Vice Chair)
Served on the Habitat and Water Quality, Coastal Habitat Protection Plan, joint MFC/WRC Coastal Recreational Fishing License and the Finfish and Shellfish/Crustacean committees.
- 8/2006 – 8/2007 Christ the King H.S. New Bern, NC
Title: Science Teacher
Taught Environmental Science and Biology.
- 8/2005 – 8/2006 Tiller Middle School Morehead City, NC
Title: Science Teacher
Taught sixth, seventh and eight grade science.
- 5/2004 – 8/2006 Consultant/Self-employed Morehead City, NC
Title: Research Consultant
Monitor red drum spawning habitat in the Neuse River Estuary, Pamlico River, Pamlico Sound and Ocracoke Inlet of North Carolina using passive acoustics, water quality and egg/larval sampling techniques.
- 5/2002 – 5/2004 North Carolina State University Raleigh, NC
Title: Research Assistant
Identified red drum spawning habitat in the Neuse River Estuary of North Carolina using passive acoustics, water quality, and egg/larval monitoring
- 8/2001 – 5/2003 North Carolina State University Raleigh, NC
Title: Teaching Assistant
Instructed laboratory-based classes in Oceanography, Earth System Science, and Biology.
- 9/1999 – 7/2001 American Farmland Trust Washington, DC
Title: Program Manager
Responsibilities included managing multiple policy initiatives, advocating for increased federal funding of conservation programs, organizing a grass roots policy network, assisting

regional offices with state campaigns, and coordinating initiatives with partner organizations including “Keep America Growing”, a network of interagency and non-governmental organizations focused on urban and suburban land use issues, and a partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors leading to “Town Meets Country: Farm-City Forum on Land and Community”. These forums brought urban, suburban, and rural leaders into discussions on smart growth issues throughout the country.

5/1999 – 8/1999 The Nature Conservancy Key West, FL

Title: Lattner Marine Fellow/Coastal Initiative Program

Responsibilities focused on identifying appropriate wastewater treatment options and possible funding sources for upgrades of failing systems in the Florida Keys and dissemination to local community and assisted in advocacy efforts for funding in Washington, DC.

Education

8/2001 – 8/2004 North Carolina State University Raleigh, NC

- Masters of Science in Biological Oceanography.
- Minor in Geographic Information Science.
- Graduated Summa Cum Laude.
- Honors included: NCSU Sea Grant Fellowship, PADI Foundation Grant, NCSU Marine Department “Excellence in Teaching” award.
- Activities included: Treasurer of the Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Graduate Association.

8/1995 – 5/1999 Florida International University Miami, FL

- Bachelors of Science in Environmental Science and Policy.
- Minor in Biology.
- Graduated Cum Laude.
- Honors included: Lattner Fellowship to work with The Nature Conservancy, FIU Departmental “Excellence in Academic Achievement” award, FIU Departmental “Excellence in Service to the Environment” award, Florida Undergraduate Scholarship, University Scholarship, Dean’s list 7 (of 8) semesters.
- Activities included: Marine Mammal Rescue Unit (officer), Marine Animal Rescue Society (volunteer and organizer), Golden Key National Honor Society (Director of Environmental Activities), and Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society.

Languages and Certifications

- Spanish: Spoken (Excellent), Written (Well). First generation Cuban America.
- N.C. SPI Teaching License Middle Grades Science (6-9)

Stuart Creighton

Mr. Creighton graduated from NC State University with a BS in Meteorology and received his secondary education certification from Campbell University before completing a 25-year career as a high school science educator in North Carolina. During his career, he had experience teaching the full spectrum of science classes from fundamental Earth Science to AP Physics. In semi-retirement, he currently serves as a property manager in Oriental, a town with which he has had a lifelong connection. Mr. Creighton has been a passionate recreational fisherman on the Neuse River throughout his life, and, because of that passion, he has become very active in current fishery management issues.

His activity began in 2015 when he became a regular attendee and public speaker at the quarterly Marine Fisheries Commission meetings. Since then, he has served on the most recent Striped Bass Advisory Committee, as well as being engaged with other standing and regional advisory committees. Mr. Creighton has served as the CCA NC Fisheries Committee Chairman since 2020 and is also a Vice President of the CCA State Board. His responsibilities in this role include keeping current on state and federal issues, examining data to determine pending management problems, and writing content on what management measures are necessary to correct them.

Over the past decade, Mr. Creighton has fished up and down the North Carolina coast, exploring the different fisheries available from Weldon to Wrightsville Beach. He is very well studied on the challenges that are present at both the state and national level and will work hard to make sure that our marine resources are not only conserved, but rebuilt, so that everyone may continue to use them responsibly.

William Gorham

Mr. Gorham is the owner of Bowed Up Lures, a fishing lure manufacturer located in Dare County. Given Mr. Gorham's market area for his lure company, it gives him great insight into fisheries in both the Atlantic and Gulf states.

Mr. Gorham has been involved in the state and federal fisheries management for a number of years. He served as a proxy for North Carolina's Legislative Appointee on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Mr. Gorham also served on the South Atlantic Council's Cobia sub-panel and Citizen Science Advisory Committee.

Mr. Gorham was also appointed to participate in each step of SEDAR 58 cobia stock assessment.

Mr. Gorham has also assisted in stakeholder outreach and education on a variety of regulatory proposals.

Mr. Gorham has also assisted with multiple grant proposals and helped with data collection on several research studies for NC State and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS).