

**Habitat and Water Quality Standing Advisory Committee
Morehead City - Central District Office
January 17, 2024
6 p.m.**

6:00 p.m. Call to Order*

Vote on the Approval of the Agenda**

Vote on the Approval of the Minutes from April 19, 2023 **

6:05 p.m. Review and Discussion of the Protection of Critical Sea Grass Habitat Through Shrimp Trawl Area Closures – Chris Stewart

This issue is part of the adaptive management adopted in Shrimp FMP Amendment 2 to further protect SAV habitat in North Carolina, by identifying unprotected SAV habitat using updated imagery (SAV mosaic) and providing additional protection through shrimp trawl area closures. Staff have developed an issue paper that provides a adaptive management strategy for your review.

7:40 p.m. Public Comment

7:50 p.m. Issues from AC Members

8:00 p.m. Adjourn

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

***Action Items*

****Applies only to Marine Fisheries Commission members*

*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). ****