CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

LETTERS & ONLINE COMMENTS

ETHICS TRAINING & SEI REMINDER

2021 PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE

COMMISSION COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS



LETTERS & ONLINE COMMENTS

Lara K. J. Klibansky Marine Fisheries Commission Liaison Executive Assistant for Councils and Commissions NC Division of Marine Fisheries Department of Environmental Quality



252 808 8021 office (direct) 252 515 6020 mobile 252 726 7021 main Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov

P.O. Box 769 3441 Arendell Street Morehead City, NC 28557

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From: Bizzell, Rob <r.bizzell.mfc@ncdenr.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 7:39 PM
To: Klibansky, Lara <Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [External] Proposed flounder amendment 3

For the books Get <u>Outlook for iOS</u>

From: Stuart Creighton

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 3:58 PM

To: Bizzell, Rob; <u>robert.b.mcneill@ncdenr.gov</u>; Kornegay, K; Roller, Thomas N; Cross, Doug; Romano, Sam; Blanton, Mike; <u>martin.posey@ncdenr.gov</u>; Hendrickson, Tom
 Subject: [External] Proposed flounder amendment 3

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Good afternoon all,

I have spent some time going through the newly proposed draft of amendment 3 for the southern flounder FMP. I must tell you that I have several issues with this draft, and find it lacking in many ways.

For the proposed flounder quota, all that was done was to take the 2017 baseline date and cut it by 72%. Doing so keeps everything the same. The commercial fishery keeps their 72% of the allowable harvest and the recreational fishermen are allowed 28%. I do not feel that this is an equitable allocation. Let us not forget that flounder have been overfished with overfishing continuing to occur for 30 years, and that overfishing responsibility falls SQUARELY on the commercial industry. In that time, every attempt at action by the division was rebuffed by the commercial lobby or by members of the MFC with commercial interests. From ignoring the science to lobbying efforts, to a recent lawsuit that has handcuffed the DMF until this most recent stock assessment, the NCFA and its allies has stonewalled any significant cuts or limits to the flounder fishery. On the other side, the recreational bag limit has been cut and cut and cut to meet the needed reductions in the flounder fishery. Once again, in the face of these Draconian cuts, you continue to reward the commercial industry with the lion's share of the catch even though they are the ones directly responsible for putting us all in this unenviable position. That simply can't be allowed. A more equitable allocation should instead be implemented, at minimum 40% going to the recreational anglers, even though 50% would be most appropriate.

As far as the proposed quota is concerned, I must start by saying that NO FORM OF QUOTA WILL WORK UNTIL THE DMF DEALS WITH THE ISSUE OF LATENT LICENSES.

Regardless of the poundage that is set, when you have over 3000 inactive commercial licenses, your quota of allowable harvest is destined for failure. For the past two years during flounder season (and outside of it) hundreds of commercial fishermen go out to net or gig for "personal consumption". No trip tickets are filed, and countless flounder are harvested and sold out of the back of a truck with no knowledge that they have been removed from the stock. The magnitude of the problem is far greater than the Division is willing to acknowledge, and until the number of available licenses is reigned in and/or sufficient enforcement officers are placed on active duty patrolling our waters, any proposed quota will be inaccurate.

Under this current proposal, commercial gears will be split into mobile (gigs and gill nets) and pound nets, with each type being allowed to harvest approximately 195000 pounds of flounder, a near 50/50 split. Each gear type will have independent management zones, allowing for flexibility with seasonal openings/closures that are staggered. Previous divisional statistics show that the pound netters could potentially blow through their quota in less than a week. Is the Division really going to halt all pound netting after such a potentially short time in the water? The quota calls for daily monitoring: does the division really have the personnel to undertake such a task? With the shortened seasons, large mesh gill nets have been/will be set in incredible numbers causing bycatch of red drum, sea turtles, and more to skyrocket. How will the Division handle this issue? There has never been a more appropriate time to remove large mesh gill nets from the flounder fishery. With the staggering reductions that must be enacted, the wastefulness of the gear, and the abysmal failure that is the ITP observer program, it is obvious that it is time to ban this gear once and for all. That portion of the quota can be reassigned to the giggers and pound netters.

On the recreational side of the fishery, the Division is proposing a one fish per day bag limit during the season going forward, something that will not go over well with recreational anglers and needs to be re-thought immediately. In an attempt to "ease the burden", a token one ocellated flounder per day, primarily in the ocean is being proposed for March 1 through April 15. They are also allowing gig fishermen such a small fraction of the quota that it is honestly not worth the effort (15,500 pounds I believe), As I mentioned earlier in this letter, the recreational quota should be increased from 27% to a minimum of 40%. Reducing the bag limit to 2 fish would be more reasonable for southern flounder ONLY. A 45 day season for ocellated flounder continuing the 4 fish daily limit should instead be offered when you can actually fish in the ocean, somewhere between June and August. ALL RECREATIONAL COMMERCIAL GEAR SHOULD BE BANNED. Also, to reduce recreational mortality, circle hooks should be required for anyone fishing with live or cut bait.

Finding a way to manage a fishery with such a depleted stock is certainly a tough task, and an unenviable one. However, what the DMF is currently proposing is just not right and more thought needs to be put into such a plan. I hope the solutions I have proposed for are sensible. I certainly feel that they are more equitable.

In summary, reduce the commercial quota to 50 60% of the allowable harvest while eliminating large mesh gill nets. In addition, the Division must significantly change the system so that 3000 latent licenses will no longer be allowed. For the recreational side of the industry, increase the allocation to a minimum of 40%, decrease the southern flounder bag limit to 2 fish, while allowing for an ocellated flounder season that maintains the four fish daily limit during a more appropriate time of the year. Ban all recreational commercial gear, and require circle hooks when fishing natural bait for flounder.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Sincerely, Stuart Creighton , NC Lara K. J. Klibansky Marine Fisheries Commission Liaison Executive Assistant for Councils and Commissions NC Division of Marine Fisheries Department of Environmental Quality



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From: Bizzell, Rob <r.bizzell.mfc@ncdenr.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 11:22 AM
To: Klibansky, Lara <Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [External] DMF Public Meeting Comment Regarding Abuse of Coastal Fisheries

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From: Bizzell, Rob <<u>r.bizzell.mfc@ncdenr.gov</u>>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 11:21 AM
To: Ben Manfredi
Subject: Re: [External] DMF Public Meeting Comment Regarding Abuse of Coastal Fisheries

Thanks for your comments, I will share them with the Commission. Rob

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From: Ben Manfredi
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 11:03:59 AM
To: Bizzell, Rob <<u>r.bizzell.mfc@ncdenr.gov</u>>
Subject: [External] DMF Public Meeting Comment Regarding Abuse of Coastal Fisheries

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Hi Rob,

I hope you had a great weekend and this email finds you well. I'm writing to you to express my (and many other recreation fishermans) opinions in regards to the health of our fisheries in Wilmington NC, and other coastal waters. I think it's safe to say, and well known, that we allow practices that negatively affect the health of our fisheries. Examples of practices, are the use of Gill Nets for commercial fishing and allowing flounder gigging. These two practices have completely decimated the populations of the fish in the Wilmington area. I will share my opinions on each below.

1. Flounder Gigging

- Why is this allowed? It's not fishing, it's hunting. I have seen multiple times people get their limit of (4) flounder, come to the boat ramp and drop them off, and then head back out to get more. Is the limit even being enforced? I understand we can't generalize and say everyone does this, but I think it's certain that enough people do it to harm the numbers of the population. This is not a sustainable way of harvesting these fish. I've heard rumors of making the season longer with an allowable (1) flounder per trip. I think this is a GREAT idea as it will help prevent the allure of gigging and "limiting out".

2. Gill Nets.

- OK, why is NC one of the few states that still allows this barbaric harvesting method? Just last week I saw a skiff with a basket loaded full of redfish and the the front of the skiff filled with gill nets. These did not appear to be commercial fisherman, and there is no reason all those fish should have died (a few over slot too). This is a horrible thing we allow that is destroying the numbers of these beautiful fish. Even the fish that are released will likely not make it after the injuries sustained from the net (open wounds, damages to gill removing the fish from the net, ect..) This does not only apply to Redfish, but other desired inshore fish like flounder and trout (speckled).

Is there a reason behind why we allow these practices even though most other states have banned these practices and have much healthier fisheries? Are we really that blind to the positives of banning these practices. I just wanted to share my opinion and frustrations as an avid inshore fisherman. Thank you!

Best Regards,

Ben

From:	Klibansky, Lara
То:	Bizzell, Rob; Blanton, Mike; Cross, Doug; Hendrickson, Tom; Kornegay, K; McNeill, Robert; Posey, Martin H;
	Roller, Thomas N; Romano, Sam
Cc:	<u>Murphey, Steve;</u> Gillikin, Dana; Loeffler, Michael; Markwith, Anne; Rawls, Kathy
Subject:	FW: [External] Marine Fisheries Commission
Date:	Wednesday, August 26, 2020 6:30:04 AM

Good morning, Chairman Bizzell and Commissioners,

Please see the email below.

Best,

Lara

Lara K. J. Klibansky Marine Fisheries Commission Liaison Executive Assistant for Councils and Commissions NC Division of Marine Fisheries Department of Environmental Quality

252 808 8021 office (direct) 252 515 6020 mobile 252 726 7021 main Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov

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-----Original Message-----From: JIMMY HORTON Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:27 AM To: Klibansky, Lara <Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov> Subject: [External] Marine Fisheries Commission

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Thanks for you'll work for our state . On the subject of flounder fishing , Food for thought , would you'll data support a one fish per person per day April through Sept , this will be the only opened season . My thoughts the flounder would not be the targeted fish like they are under the current season . They would basically be a by catch bonus Thanks for considering this

Sent from my iPhone

From:	<u>Bizzell, Rob</u>
То:	Maier, Shawn; Rawls, Kathy; Klibansky, Lara; Gillikin, Dana; Murphey, Steve
Subject:	Re: [External] FW: RE: Flounder
Date:	Wednesday, August 26, 2020 11:40:08 AM

Dear Mr. Strickland, thank you for your concerns on our existing flounder regulations. I would be happy to address all your concerns, but my typing fingers would not make it through the full explanation! But in short, these are the current regulations that were developed in amendment 2 of the southern flounder FMP, which went through extensive study and public comment. We are currently working on amendment 3, where some regulations could be changed, if appropriate. While the pandemic has reduced our ability to meet face to face, your input, comments, and suggestions would be welcomed. Please forward any to the DMF for consideration. Flounder are in tuff shape, requiring dramatic measures to help save the stock. Thank you for your concerns, Rob Bizzell, chairman, NCMFC

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From: Gillikin, Dana <Dana.Gillikin@ncdenr.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 11:17:08 AM
To: Bizzell, Rob <r.bizzell.mfc@ncdenr.gov>; Maier, Shawn <Smaier@ncdoj.gov>
Cc: Klibansky, Lara <Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov>
Subject: FW: [External] FW: RE: Flounder

Good morning, Chairman Bizzell,

Please see the email below.

Best,

Dana H. Gillikin Administrative Specialist, Commission Office Division of Marine Fisheries NC Department of Environmental Quality

Office: 252-808-8022 Dana.Gillikin@ncdenr.gov

PO Box 769 3441 Arendell Street Morehead City, NC 28557



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From: Rawls, Kathy <kathy.rawls@ncdenr.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Klibansky, Lara <Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov>
Cc: Gillikin, Dana <Dana.Gillikin@ncdenr.gov>
Subject: FW: [External] FW: RE: Flounder

Please see his request to forward his email to the MFC chair.

Thanks, Kat

Kathy Rawls Section Chief, Fisheries Management N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (252) 808-8074 Office Kathy.Rawls@ncdenr.gov 3441 Arendell Street P.O. Box 769

Morehead City, NC 28557



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From: revjackie Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 4:28 PM To: Rawls, Kathy <<u>kathy.rawls@ncdenr.gov</u>> Subject: [External] FW: RE: Flounder

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Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

------ Original message ------From: revjackie Date: 8/25/20 4:17 PM (GMT-05:00) To: revjackie Subject: RE: Flounder

Please forward my email to the head commissioner please. I would appreciate an answer to my legitimate concerns. Thank you

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

------ Original message ------From: revjackie Date: 8/18/20 6:09 PM (GMT-05:00) To: "Rawls, Kathy" <<u>kathy.rawls@ncdenr.gov</u>> Subject: Flounder

Hello

I fish section e. In brunswick county. All of our equipment has been banned except gigs. Meaning we can not set any type of net or trawl for flounder. Recreational season just opened for 1.5 months. My season opens oct 2 for one month

Is it fair that I have to fish behind all the recreational giggers and guides? As a gigger I have to put up with tides, storms, moon, wind etc. The fishermen up north where pound nets are legal will catch more flounder in one day than I can catch all month. The comission is not being fair to us down south. We should have a longer season even if we have a creel limit.

Also a rod and reel is not considered commercial gear. So why is a gig considered recreational gear?

If pray things change for the better for us in section e.

Frustrated in beach

Jackie strickland

Thank you once again for listening and considering my concerns.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Lara K. J. Klibansky Marine Fisheries Commission Liaison Executive Assistant for Councils and Commissions NC Division of Marine Fisheries Department of Environmental Quality



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From: Bizzell, Rob <r.bizzell.mfc@ncdenr.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 7:03 PM
To: Klibansky, Lara <Lara.Klibansky@ncdenr.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [External] Flounder regulation

For the books. Thanks, Rob Get <u>Outlook for iOS</u>

From: revjackie Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 6:40 PM To: Bizzell, Rob Subject: [External] Flounder regulation

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to <u>report.spam@nc.gov</u> Thank you sir for a reply. But let's please be honest with one another. I understand that we need regulations. But we need regulations that are

Fair to all. Each commercial license holder should be entitled to a certain amount of poundage. But we all know that the trawlers and pound netters are responsible for approx. 75 percent of all of North Carolinas poundage. We are being punished in section e for the overfishing that is going on up north. I also dont understand why you guys opened recreational season ahead of commercial Season in section e. You also removed the per vessel recreational limit. The recreational giggers have 4 to 5 people on a boat leaving the dock with 20 fish and I cant even fish yet

Dont it make sense to let commercial giggers fish. Even if we have a set creel limit per trip. My license cost to much for you guys to not let me fish. Things need to be looked at by section. What works in one area might not work in another. Also all the inlets down south are filling up. More needs to be done to improve habitat. Thanks for your time but the laws are not fair for us as they stand. Thank you for considering my concerns. Jack

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



NORTH CAROLINA

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 27255 Raleigh, NC 27611-7255

State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement

Phone: (919) 814-0700 Fax: (919) 715-0135

Ethics & Lobbying Education

The following information applies to public servants, legislators, legislative employees, and ethics liaisons. For information on lobbying education and awareness presentations for lobbyists and lobbyist principals.

Mandatory Education. The N.C. State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement provides mandatory ethics and lobbying education for *public servants*, *legislators*, *legislative employees* and *ethics liaisons*. Topics covered include:

- Filing a Statement of Economic Interest ("SEI")
- Monitoring and avoiding conflicts of interest
- The gift ban and its exceptions
- Prohibition on use of public position for private gain
- Lobbying and how it affects individuals covered by the State Government Ethics Act

Ethics education is the primary way individuals subject to the State Government Ethics Act are made aware of their public duties and responsibilities as well as the consequences for violating the ethics laws.

Who Must Participate

- **Public Servants & Ethics Liaisons.** All public servants and ethics liaisons are required to attend a Commission-approved basic ethics and lobbying education presentation within six (6) months of the person's election appointment, or employment and attend a refresher presentation at least every two (2) years thereafter.
- Legislators & Legislative Employees. The Commission, jointly with the Legislative Ethics Committee, makes mandatory ethics education and lobbying presentations to all legislators within two (2) months of the legislator assuming his or her office. Legislative employees must also participate in ethics education within three (3) months of employment and attend a refresher at least every two (2) years.
- Education Presentations & Schedule. Ethics and lobbying education presentations for public servants and ethics liaisons are offered online and live at Raleigh-only and distance education sites. Completing an online presentation or attending a live session meets either the basic or refresher mandatory education requirements. Visit https://www.ncsbe.gov/Ethics/Education to access online and live training options.

Ethics education for **legislators** is conducted in live sessions. Legislative employees may participate in ethics education online through the General Assembly.

• **Consequences for Failure to Attend.** Failure to attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation is a violation of the State Government Ethics Act and may result in the individual being recommended for removal from his or her public position or disciplined in his or her State job.

Contact Information

For education related questions, contact: NC State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement Phone: (919) 814-3600 E-mail: Education.Ethics@doa.nc.gov

2020 STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST REMINDERS:

Completed SEIs must be filed on or before April 15, 2020. If you have already filed a 2020 SEI, do not refile. The forms and instructions can be found at <u>https://ethics.ncsbe.gov/sei/blankForm.aspx</u>.

If you filed a 2019 SEI *and* you have had *no changes* since your 2019 filing, you may file a 2020 SEI No Change Form, located on the website.

You must file a 2020 Long Form if any of the following apply to you:

- a. You filed a 2019 SEI <u>but</u> you have had changes since your 2019 filing;
- b. You did not file a $201\overline{9}$ SEI; or
- c. You are a first-time filer or have been appointed to a new or additional position/board.

This year, the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement will roll out a new electronic process for filing SEIs. That electronic filing option will be available in **early February**.

You are encouraged to file your SEI electronically. However, if you want to file your SEIs before the updated electronic version is available, hard copies are available for filing now at the link above.

New commissioners will need to file a 2020 SEI; however, if you have not had any changes since you last filed, you can use the No Change Form, which is fairly easy to complete.

Please file by April 15th to avoid fines and other penalties.

SEI HELPFUL TIPS

1. PUBLIC RECORDS. The State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement (State Board) is required to collect and maintain disclosures from certain persons covered by the State Elections and Ethics Enforcement Act Government Ethics Act (Elections and Ethics Act). By law, the information requested is public record and available to the public upon request. As public records, Statements of Economic Interest (SEI) are available on the Commission's website. Personal contact information, however, is not.

2. CONTACT INFORMATION PAGE. The Contact Information page, which includes your personal contact information, will not be available on the Commission's website, but is a public **record.**

3. CHILDREN'S INITIALS. Only list minor children's INITIALS on the SEI. List each child's full legal name on the Confidential Unemancipated Children's Form. If you are filing electronically, the form will be generated at the end of the SEI from the information that you provided on your electronic SEI. The Confidential Form is not a public record, and the State Board will not make it available to the public.

4. READ EACH QUESTION CAREFULLY. Read each question carefully and pay close attention to the time periods in each question as they do vary.

5. ANSWER EACH QUESTION. It is important to answer each question, including all applicable subparts. Even if your answer is "no" or "not applicable," make certain you answer each question. Many of the questions have "yes" and "no" boxes to check for your convenience. Incomplete SEIs may cause delays and negatively impact your public service on a covered board or as an employee.

6. WHY ARE YOU FILING. You must list the complete name of the state board or state agency employer for which you are filing the SEI. Without this information, your SEI may be delayed and negatively impact your public service on a covered board or as an employee.

7. HOW TO FILE. The State Board strongly recommends electronical on-line filing as it is secure, allows easy information updates, and gives you access to your electronic SEIs previously filed. Filing your SEI on-line is easy, quick, convenient, and reduces the chance of reporting errors. Getting started is easy. Follow the simple steps to create your own account and get access today: https://EFILE.ncsbe.gov/ To file a paper version of the SEI, you must provide the State Board with a signed, original SEI form. Each SEI includes an "affirmation" and is a legally binding document. Faxed or emailed copies of your SEI CANNOT be accepted.

SEI Helpful Tips, continued

8. INCOME. List each source of income as requested on the SEI. The actual dollar amount is not required. Be sure to list your employer as a source of income in Question # 6 of the SEI.

9. READ CAREFULLY. Read each question carefully, as the Elections and Ethics Act requires that you disclose your financial holdings and obligations, personal property, and real property and may also include your knowledge of the holdings of both your immediate family and your extended family. "Immediate family" and "extended family" are defined terms in the Elections and Ethics Act, and those definitions are included with this document.

10. REFLECT. Think carefully about WHY you are filing, and whether it has any relationship to your position. Does your board or commission license or regulate you? For many of the boards, a subject matter expert like a licensee is needed. Answering "yes" does not prohibit your service on the board, and your perspective is valued.

11. MAKE A COPY. Make a copy of the SEI for your own records, and make a note in your calendar when you submit it, whether on-line or by mail or hand delivery. When you successfully submit your SEI electronically on-line, the final screen will provide a confirmation number and will be proof that you have satisfied your filing obligation. Please print the **confirmation screen for your records.**

12. ETHICS LIAISON. Contact your Ethics Liaison to assist you in your obligations under the Elections and Ethics Act. Your Ethics Liaison is good source of information about how to fill out your SEI.

13. ON-LINE HELP. The State Board has on-line resources to answer questions you may have about your SEI. For more information, please visit the State Board website which has education offerings.

14. DEFINITIONS. As noted above, certain terms are defined in the Elections and Ethics Act ("immediate family"). These definitions may be helpful to you in completing your SEI. A complete list of all definitions used in the Elections and Ethics Act is available on the State Board's website, under "Ethics". Some of the more common ones are attached to this document.

15. YOUR INTERNET BROWSER. Consider using Internet Explorer or Chrome to submit your SEI. Some users have had trouble using other browsers. 16. WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU. In addition to on-line resources and written materials, the State Board has expert staff ready to answer any questions you might have and assist you in completing and filing your SEI. Do not hesitate to contact us at <u>sei@ncsbee.gov</u> (919) 814-3600.

2021 Meeting Planning Calendar

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ASMFC SAFMC MAFMC ASMFC/MAFMC Joint Meeting



Southern Regional AC Northern Regional AC Finfish AC Habitat and Water Quality AC Shellfish/Crustacean AC State Holiday

2020 Committee Assignments for Marine Fisheries Commissioners 08/05/2020

FINFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Commissioners: Tom Roller – chair, Sam Romano – vice chair

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

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

HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE & COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION PLAN STEERING 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: Pete Kornegay - chair, Dr. Martin Posey - vice chair

DMF Staff Lead: Anne Deaton - anne.deaton@ncdenr.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:** Sam Romano – chair, Pete Kornegay – co-vice chair, Dr. Martin Posey – co-vice chair DMF Staff Lead: Tina Moore - tina.moore@ncdenr.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: Sam Romano - chair, Tom Hendrickson and Robert McNeill **DMF Staff Lead:** Randy Gregory - randy.gregory@ncdenr.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, Doug Cross and Tom Hendrickson

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

Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed

COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE ADVISORY 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: Pete Kornegay - chair, Rob Bizzell, Tom Roller, and Robert McNeill **DMF Staff Lead:** Jamie Botinovch - jamie.botinovch@ncdenr.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, Pete Kornegay, Tom Roller and Mike Blanton DMF Staff Lead: Chris Batsavage - <u>chris.batsavage@ncdenr.gov</u> 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 – <u>garland.yopp@ncdenr.gov</u>

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: Doug Cross – chair, Mike Blanton and Sam Romano DMF Staff Lead: William Brantley – <u>william.brantley@ncdenr.gov</u> 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, Dr. Martin Posey and Pete Kornegay DMF Staff Lead: Anne Deaton - <u>anne.deaton@ncdenr.gov</u> 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@ncdenr.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: Dr. Martin Posey, Pete Kornegay DMF Staff Lead: Anne Deaton – <u>anne.deaton@ncdenr.gov</u> Meeting Frequency: Meets as needed