Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP)
Origin and Purpose

G.S. 143B-279.8 - Fisheries Reform Act of 1997
• Required Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to draft the plan
• Required the Environmental Management (EMC), Coastal Resources (CRC), and Marine Fisheries (MFC) commissions to approve and implement recommendations

Purpose
• Long-term enhancement of coastal fisheries by addressing habitat and water quality needs of fishery species
Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP)

Four Overarching Goals

- Improve effectiveness of existing rules and programs protecting coastal fish habitats
- Identify, designate and protect strategic habitat areas
- Enhance habitat and protect it from physical impacts
- Enhance and protect water quality
2021 Amendment Process

- Select priority habitat issues
- Draft issue papers
- Build support for proposed actions
- Revise and approve CHPP
- Implement recommended actions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>MFC</th>
<th>CRC</th>
<th>EMC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide CHPP background, implementation progress, and process for 2021 amendment</td>
<td>Fall 2019</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Nov 20</td>
<td>Nov 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide background on SAV, Compliance, and I&amp;I issue papers</td>
<td>Summer 2020</td>
<td>Aug 20-21</td>
<td>Sep 9</td>
<td>Sep 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide update on timeline</td>
<td>Fall 2020</td>
<td>Nov 19-20</td>
<td>Nov 18-19</td>
<td>Nov 18-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present background on Wetlands and Habitat Monitoring issue papers</td>
<td>Winter 2021</td>
<td>Feb 17-19</td>
<td>Feb 17-18</td>
<td>Mar 10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide update on revision status</td>
<td>Spring 2021</td>
<td>May 19-21</td>
<td>Jun 9-10</td>
<td>May 12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present entire draft amendment; ask to take out for public comment (action item)</td>
<td>Summer 2021</td>
<td>Aug 25-27</td>
<td>Sep 15-16</td>
<td>Sep 8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review public comments received; ask for final plan approval (action item)</td>
<td>Fall 2021</td>
<td>Nov 17-19</td>
<td>Nov 9-10</td>
<td>Nov 17-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present public friendly short plan for outreach purposes</td>
<td>Spring 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) protection and restoration, with focus on water quality improvements

Environmental rule compliance to protect habitat and water quality
2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan
Issue Papers Underway

- Reducing inflow and infiltration (I&I) associated with wastewater infrastructure to improve coastal water quality
- Wetland protection and enhancement with focus on nature-based methods
- Habitat monitoring to assess status and regulatory effectiveness
Questions?