

Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via WebEx
February 25-26, 2021

Due to COVID-19, the commission held a two-day business meeting via WebEx webinar on February 25-26. In addition to the public comment session, members of the public submitted public comment online or via U.S. mail. To view the public comment, go to: <https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/February-2021-After-Mailout-Online-Public-Comment-and-Letters.pdf>

The briefing book, presentations and audio from this meeting can be found at: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/marine-fisheries-commission/marine-fisheries-commission-meetings#quarterly-business-meeting---february-25--26,-2021>

Actions and motions from the meeting are listed in **bolded** type.

BUSINESS MEETING - MOTIONS AND ACTIONS

On February 25 at 9 a.m. Chairman Rob Bizzell called the meeting to order and reminded commissioners of their conflict of interest and ethics requirements.

The following commission members were in attendance: Rob Bizzell-Chairman, Mike Blanton, Doug Cross, Tom Hendrickson, James Kornegay, Robert McNeill, Dr. Martin Posey Tom Roller and Sam Romano.

Motion by Tom Roller to approve the meeting agenda.
Second by Martin Posey.

Motion carries with no opposition.

Motion by Pete Kornegay to approve the minutes of the Nov. 19-20 meeting.
Second by Sam Romano

Motion carries with no opposition.

Public Comment Period

A public comment session was held beginning at 9:10 a.m. The following individuals registered to speak during the public comment session:

Stuart Creighton - I shared this email with you, because I'm sure it's going to run long. How can I convey with enough conviction that our fisheries are in serious trouble, principally because this commission and this division will not manage in a timely and proactive manner? During this meeting, perhaps more than others, all of the issues that I, and many others, have brought to your attention in the past are once again staring at you, still demanding action, the kind of action that you have been unwilling to take, but the kind of action that you must take, and take now in order to recover our dwindling stocks. First, our striped bass continue to decline. Evidence shows that in EVERY major river system, the fish are depleted and overfished, with overfishing continuing to occur. The reasons cited are numerous...physical factors such as locks and dams in the Cape Fear, incorrect flows on the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, and Roanoke Rivers; and overfishing with excessive bycatch from both user groups. The news is especially troubling on the RR/ASMA because this has been the one area of the state where natural spawning occurs regularly. Now, five consecutive years of excessive flows during the spawn have resulted in little to no recruitment. Yet during that time, harvest continued with no action by the division. No adjustments were made to allowable landings; no changes were called for to recreational or commercial gears. The only thought seemed to be just keep harvesting, it'll be better next year. Now, once again, the angling community is forced to consider drastic choices if we are to recover the stock. Realistically, and unfortunately, another long-term closure is the best option. Recreational discard mortality could have been minimized by requiring the use of barbless or circle hooks much sooner. Yes, it is up for consideration now, but will it pass? Or will action be delayed again unnecessarily? Stripper bycatch in shad nets is high, as it is in large mesh flounder nets. When will these gears be removed? Stripers can easily be caught with hook and line (as can shad) and commercial fishermen would be very successful catching their daily limit if hook and line fishing replaced gill nets. According to the Division, adaptive management measures were built into the striper FMP. Why did it take four years for them to be proposed for the Roanoke River / Albemarle Sound?

New management measures are now up for consideration in the southern flounder fishery, another one that has been severely overfished for decades. You've got an unfair allotment between commercial recreational as proposed as 73 to 27 split is inevitable and it needs to go to 50, 50. Obviously guys, I've got a lot more, but out of time, so I'll complete there.

Dennis Cox - How are you doing this morning? I don't have a prepared speech but let me tell you how life is. I've been a commercial fisherman for 35 years. I don't know where y'all are coming up with this rock data, but I'm about to expose Marine Fisheries to how many fish are out there. I'm on Facebook now and I've got pound nets. This morning I dumped 500-1000 lbs of herring overboard. There's plenty of rock. I mean, I can call people and show them how to do a drop and yesterday, there was rock, ungodly. Data would not show what's out there. The computer will not tell you what's out there in that sound. These recreation or whatever wants to fight us about laws, I won't see a boat for 50 miles, yet we're overfishing it? I don't understand that. We need Marine Fisheries to step up and support commercial fishing, that's what we're here for. Marine Fisheries is supposed to support us. Not be against us and everything we do.

We're catching shad on trots, we're catching rock on trot, I'm catching so many fish right now I've never seen anything like it. Ever. And I keep hearing there's no rock, there's no rock. If Marine Fisheries would take advantage of the situation and go against the water quality people, a lot would get done. And also, all I want to know is how can I as a citizen of North Carolina remove the board for the State of North Carolina? What can I do to replace the nine people on the board? I'm asking that question. What can be done because you can not have nine people that disagree with everything about commercial fishing. We need somebody who has an open mind and listens to both sides instead of having a one-track mind. You cannot be one-track mind when you make decisions for commercial fishing or recreational fishing. Everyone needs to have an open mind and not. They got closed minded when they go in there. And there should be no CCA member on a commercial board, period. Can y'all hear me? I'm flabbergasted by how much money commercial fishing generates for the State of NC, yet.

(Chairman Bizzell gave the 30 second warning) I've got a lot of seconds – what can we do about y'all? What can we do about the board? (Chairman Bizzell answered that the commission is appointed by the Governor of NC). The Governor needs to be fired. The Governor needs to be fired then because you can not have anti-commercial people on the board. There is no way possible you can do that. That's like putting an atheist on a daggone Christian board.

David Sneed, Executive Director of CCA of NC, Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments on behalf of the CCA of NC. First, we support the effort to look at hook and line gear modifications to reduce recreational discard mortality. We are concerned that there is not a one size fits all approach that provides a universal solution, we encourage the commission instead to look at it on a case-by-case basis where the use of circle hooks or modified treble hook is appropriate for the target species. We were deeply concerned when the Roanoke River/Albemarle Sound striped bass stock assessment came out. It indicates she had another important stock is overfished and there have been calls for a moratorium, or at least a greatly reduced quota. However, there has been no discussion about how to address the other source of fishing mortality and that's not catching, which will greatly impede or prevent recovery. While by catch estimates are controversial, there is no doubt that as a stock recovers bycatch will increase.

Expanding the current gill net restrictions to include the following would be the most effective option, yet it is not on the table. This made me curious, so I looked at the numbers behind why we do not want to address this issue head on, to try to figure out what I might be missing. In 2019, there were 194 commercial participants in the ASMA striped bass fishery landing approximately 136,000 lbs which equates to roughly \$1900 per participant for the year. For 2021, the ASMA total allowable commercial landings will be capped at 25,608 lbs. With the same 194 participants, that would be roughly \$360 per participant for the year. I also pulled the landings data from the southern flounder allocation issue paper, another stock that has been overfished for decades, the average annual total landings by gill nets from 2008 to 2017 was roughly 898,000 lbs at an average price per pound at \$2.64. On average there were 808

participants. So they each made around \$2900 per year for that timeframe. With the current 2021 allocation for reduced 195,105 lbs, each of those 800 participants can expect to make \$638 for the year. In the meantime, hundreds of thousands of pounds of summer flounder continue to be landed in NC, providing millions of dollars of revenue to commercial fishermen. Public access to fresh caught flounder for the dinner table and the real money from the industry. So why are we profiting off of the part-time southern flounder and striped bass fisheries at the expense of our resources? I understand that people just want to make a living, but what if a resource can no longer support that way of making a living? I look forward to hearing what I'm missing during your discussion this week. Thank you for your service and for your consideration of the future of our public trust resources.

Kenneth Seigler – Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I have a few concerns... watching the internet and most social media pages and it show a lot of people out there recreational fishing who don't want to see a change in the allocation because they don't want to see their bag limit reduced. Unfortunately, that's what is going to have to occur if you approve the reallocation for southern flounder resources. I'd like to bring to your attention in your briefing book that you have it says changes in allocation may alter the rebuilding schedule that's on page 243. On page 246 says changing the allocation may alter the rebuilding schedule projections for rebuilding using a model that accounts for the rate of removal according to the size class of each sector harvested to estimate the changes of SSB. Allocation changes would impact the overall size limit of fish removed from the population and could therefore have some impact on model projections. My concern here is we reference rebuilding schedule and my question for the commission is basically in General Statute 143B-289.52: A supermajority of the Commission shall be six members. A supermajority shall be necessary to override recommendations from the Division of Marine Fisheries regarding measures needed to end overfishing or to rebuild overfished stocks. So we are talking about changing a rebuilding schedule on an overfished stock. I guess my question is, would that not require a super majority vote by commission to go into the Southern Founder Fishery Management Plan and change that allocation process? That concludes what I've got to say on the southern flounder. I'm not quite sure whether the gill net options are going to be discussed at this meeting. I didn't see them on the agenda. So I'm guessing they will be at the next advisory committee meeting.

Representative Bobby Hanig – Just a quick introduction and then a comment. I'm Representative Bobby Hanig, I represent Currituck, Dare and Pamlico counties. I'm in my second term. I wanted to make everyone out there aware that there's been a new committee formed here at the General Assembly it is called the Marine Resources and Aquaculture committee. The focus of this committee is to help grow our marine resources and aquaculture industry and to improve our water quality to ensure North Carolina seafood and recreational fishing and aquaculture continue to thrive for generations to come. I'm confident we can achieve these goals with good, honest discussion and reasonable solutions to challenges and opportunities we face. I encourage you to contact my office with any concerns or

recommendations. The phone number is 9197335906. Or you could email me at Bobby.Hanig@NCLeg.gov.

My comment is straightforward, I believe Mr. Corrigan, although well intended, has overstepped his bounds by preparing a 10-year management plan for the Albemarle, Roanoke striped bass stock. Statute 143-289.22 gives the embassy the power to adopt fishery management plans as provided to establish a priority list as determined in the order in which fishery management plans are developed. To establish a schedule for the development and adoption of each fishery management plan and to establish guidance criteria as to the contents of fishery management plans. It is not the duty of the MFC or an individual commissioner to prepare FMPs. G.S. 113-182.1 The department shall prepare FMPs for adoption by the MFC. This plan to permanently prohibit gill nets and to temporarily close recreational harvest is neither equitable or necessary. The stock has been depleted in the past and was successfully rebuilt by managing, not eliminating harvest and gears and it can be done again. Those are my comments and thank you so much.

Bert Owens – I did submit some comments online regarding flounder. Not sure if you've had a chance to read them, but please do if you get the opportunity. I'm just going to recap them here. When Southern Flounder Amendment 2 came along, it shut anglers out of the flounder fishery. Now no doubt some southern flounder are occasionally caught in the ocean, but they can also be returned to the water. In contrast, commercial vessels were not shut out of fishing, and in fact, recently had their season extended by two days with a 15000 lb landing limit. North Carolina has the largest quote of summer flounder in the nation and allows anglers zero fish except during the short southern flounder season. Virginia has the second largest quota and allows their anglers four fish at 16 1/2 inches all year long. New Jersey has the 3rd largest quota, and they allow their anglers 3 fish May through September. Now speaking of the Fisheries Reform Act, it also says that the duty of the Commission is to manage recreational and commercial groups fairly. (technical difficulties) continuing to unchanged the motion and anglers shut out, it's obvious that the fairness standard is not being met. Many small boat anglers and small charters can access these fish on the right days on near shore reefs and structure. You'd be fulfilling your duty, now talking about a duty, to open this fishery back up to anglers. One red drum, one gray trout, and now we got 3 blue fish. Surly need to give the small boat guys a reason to come to the coast, spend a little money and teach the kids how to fish. So, hope y'all have a good meeting. Thank you.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bizzell stated that the letters and online comments are in the briefing book for review. Commissioners were reminded they are required to take ethics training within six months of their appointment and every two years thereafter. Commissioners were also reminded of the annual requirement to submit a Statement of Economic Interest form by April 15 to the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement.

It was determined the 2021 meeting schedule would be:

Feb. 17-19

May 19-21

Aug. 25-27

Nov. 17-19

Chairman Bizzell pointed to the Commission Committee Assignments in the briefing book.

Committee Reports

Chairman Bizzell pointed to the Joint Meeting of the MFC Commercial Resources Fund Committee and the Funding Committee for the N. C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund meeting minutes in the briefing book.

Director's Report

Acting Director John Batherson gave opening remarks to the MFC and the public. Acting Director Batherson then introduced Deputy Director Dee Lupton who gave an update on three economic assistance plans. The CARES Act provided 5.4 million dollars to North Carolina to provide financial relief to fishery related stakeholder groups impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible stakeholders were required to submit applications by November 30, 2020. The division received a total of 290 applications, 198 have been approved. The applicants determined to be ineligible may appeal the Divisions determination. Once all appeals have been settled, the final funding decisions will be provided to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, who are distributing the funds to member states. The funds are expected to be distributed to eligible stakeholders this spring. A second round of CARES Act fisheries assistance was approved by Congress in December 2020. The division is awaiting more guidance from NOAA Fisheries on this round of funding. Finally, Deputy Director Lupton provided an update on the Federal Fisheries Disaster Funds from Hurricane Florence. Following the issuance of the Federal disaster assessment in 2019 the DMF was notified that the state is eligible for 7.7 million dollars in federal fisheries assistance. The division developed and submitted a spending plan for these funds to NOAA Fisheries. According to NOAA Fisheries, this spending plan is still in review by the Office of Budget Management.

Acting Director Batherson then reviewed the informational materials and concluded his remarks.

Hook and Line Modifications Issue Paper

Steve Poland, the Division's Executive Assistant for Councils gave a presentation on the hook and line modifications issue paper.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/02-2021-mfc-meeting/powerpoints/Hook-Modifications-in-Coastal-Fishing-Waters.pdf>

Motion by Sam Romano to approve status quo. Mandatory circle hook requirement shall be considered on a species-by-species basis through the FMP process.

Second by Doug Cross

ROLL CALL VOTE				
Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Doug Cross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Blanton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Hendrickson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Kornegay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robert McNeill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Martin Posey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam Romano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chairman Rob Bizzell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion carries unanimously

Highly Efficient Gear Restrictions on Artificial Reefs in State Ocean Waters

Jason Peters, the Division’s Enhancement Program Supervisor, gave a presentation on High Efficiency Gear Restrictions on Artificial Reefs in State Ocean Waters Information Paper (SMZs).

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/02-2021-mfc-meeting/powerpoints/Artificial-Reef.pdf>

Motion by Martin Posey to select Option 2 and associated proposed language as the preferred management option, to proceed with rulemaking to protect all finfish species from highly efficient fishinggear on artificial reefs in state ocean waters, and to allow DMF staff the latitude to possibly place defined terms in 15A NCAC 03I .0101, Definitions.

Second by Tom Roller

ROLL CALL VOTE				
Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Doug Cross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Blanton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Hendrickson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Kornegay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robert McNeill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Martin Posey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam Romano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chairman Rob Bizzell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion carries unanimously.

Shellfish Lease Regulation in High Use Areas

Jacob Boyd, the Division’s Shellfish Habitat and Enhancement Section Chief gave a presentation on the Shellfish Lease Regulation in High Use Areas Issue Paper.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/02-2021-mfc-meeting/powerpoints/Shellfish-Lease-User-Conflict-Reduction-Update.pdf>

Motion by Martin Posey to not proceed with additional rulemaking at this time beyond that which staff is already pursuing.

Second by Sam Romano

Motion withdrawn

Motion by Doug Cross to direct DMF staff to study additional rulemaking for shellfish lease regulations in high use areas.

Motion withdrawn

Following the presentation by Jacob Boyd the commission discussed the merits of additional action to address user conflict current relative to the current efforts already underway to address

user conflict associated with shellfish leases in the state. The Commission then determined no additional action is needed, other than what is already being undertaken by the division, and in accordance with the User Conflict Study prepared by the Division and the MFC in response to Session Law 2019-37.

Coastal Habitat Protection Plan

Commissioner Posey, chair of the CHPP Steering Committee, provided comments from the January 21, 2021 CHPP Steering Committee meeting.

Anne Deaton, the Division's Habitat Program Supervisor, and Casey Knight, the Division's Coastal Habitat Biologist, gave a presentation on the 2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Development. Their presentations provided background on two of the issue papers currently under development as part of the current CHPP Amendment. The full draft CHPP Amendment is expected to be reviewed by the MFC during the August business meeting.

To view the presentations, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/02-2021-mfc-meeting/powerpoints/CHPP-1.pdf>

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/02-2021-mfc-meeting/powerpoints/CHPP-2.pdf>

Rulemaking Update

Catherine Blum, the Division's Rulemaking Coordinator, presented information and updates on the 2020-2021 rulemaking cycle.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/02-2021-mfc-meeting/powerpoints/Rulemaking-Update.pdf>

Motion by Doug Cross that the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission adopt as presented all rules, changes, or readoptions for Package B. Package B consists of 41 rules in 15A NCAC 03 and 18A as published in the *N.C. Register*, per G.S. 150B-21.3A, except for additional technical changes recommended to three rules in 15A NCAC 03O .0200:

- 15A NCAC 18A .0431, .0704, .0901-.0910, .0913, .0914; (growing waters)
- 15A NCAC 18A .0140-.0143, .0146, .0150, .0154, .0155, .0159, .0160, .0163, .0167, .0169-.0172, .0179, .0180, .0188-.0190; (crustacea meat)
- 15A NCAC 03O .0201, .0202, .0204; (shellfish leases)
- 15A NCAC 03R .0104, .0105; and (nursery areas)

- 15A NCAC 03R .0117. (oyster sanctuaries)

Second by Martin Posey

ROLL CALL VOTE				
Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Doug Cross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Blanton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Hendrickson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Kornegay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robert McNeill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Martin Posey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam Romano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chairman Rob Bizzell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion carries unanimously.

Commissioner Kornegay presented his document titled, “A Ten-Year Prescription for the Recovery of the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River Striped Bass Stock”.

Fishery Management Plans

Corrin Flora, the Division’s Fishery Management Plan Coordinator provided a status update of ongoing FMPs which included southern flounder, estuarine striped bass, and shrimp.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/02-2021-mfc-meeting/powerpoints/FMP-Update.pdf>

Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3

Mike Loeffler and Anne Markwith, the Division’s Southern Flounder staff leads presented the Commercial and Recreational Sector Harvest Allocations Issue Paper requested by the commission during their Nov. 2020 business meeting. The issue paper included five allocation options as requested by the commission, which included consideration of commercial/recreational allocations of 70/30, 65/35, 60/30 with a 10% allotment for giggering, 60/40 and 50/50.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/02-2021-mfc-meeting/powerpoints/Southern-Flounder-FMP.pdf>

Motion by Pete Kornegay that the acting director of DMF direct staff to recalculate allowable southern flounder landings for Amendment 3 that will compensate for overages in landings during 2019 and 2020.

Second by Tom Roller

ROLL CALL VOTE				
Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Doug Cross	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Blanton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Hendrickson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Kornegay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robert McNeill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Martin Posey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Roller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam Romano	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chairman Rob Bizzell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion fails 3-6

Motion by Doug Cross to set the allocation for Amendment 3 at 70% commercial and 30% recreational.

Second by Sam Romano

ROLL CALL VOTE				
Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Doug Cross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Blanton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Hendrickson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Kornegay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robert McNeill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Martin Posey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tom Roller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam Romano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chairman Rob Bizzell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion carries 5-4

Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Update

Charlton Godwin, the Division’s Striped Bass FMP co-lead, gave an update on Amendment 2 to the Estuarine Striped Bass FMP.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/02-2021-mfc-meeting/powerpoints/Estuarine-Striped-Bass-FMP.pdf>

Shrimp Fishery Management Plan Update

Chris Stewart, the Division’s Shrimp FMP co-lead, gave an update on Amendment 2 to the Shrimp FMP.

To view the presentation, go to:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Marine-Fisheries/02-2021-mfc-meeting/powerpoints/Shrimp-FMP.pdf>

Issues from Commissioners

Commissioner Cross would like to see ocellated/gulf/summer flounder looked at so they can get some answers on potential access to these fish.

Commissioner Roller concurs with Commissioner Cross regarding gulf/summer flounder issue. He also stated that the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council is addressing summer flounder reallocation. He’s concerned North Carolina’s historical allocation could affect that outcome, low historical landings. Also, crab pot clean-up issue. He had made previous requests to look for mechanisms for crab pot clean up in closed seasons. Gear clean-up is a big issue.

Meeting Assignments and Preview of Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Lara Klibansky reviewed the meeting assignments and previewed the March MFC special meeting agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.