



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

January 22, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission
Southern Regional Advisory Committee

FROM: Coral Sawyer, Program Assistant
Marine Fisheries Commission Office

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Commission’s Southern Regional Advisory Committee, January 8, 2025, to provide recommendations for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3.

The Marine Fisheries Commission’s (MFC) Southern Regional Advisory Committee (AC) held a meeting on January 8, 2025, at the Division of Marine Fisheries Central District Office in Morehead City, North Carolina, and via webinar. AC members could attend in either setting to communicate with other committee members.

The following Advisory Committee members were in attendance in person: Tom Smith, Samuel Boyce, Pam Morris, Michael Opegard, Kenneth Seigler, John “Glenn” Skinner, Jeremy Skinner, Michael Yates. The following member were in attendance online: Fred Scharf. (Absent: Truby Proctor, Tim Wilson)

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Staff: Jesse Bisette, Coral Sawyer, Brandi Salmon, Jeff Dobbs, Dan Zapf, Barbie Byrd, Kathy Rawls, Hope Wade, Jason Walsh, Colonel Carter Witten, Bennet Paradis, Joe Facendola, Lorena de la Garza, Officer Brian Gupton.

Public: Wesley Potter

The Southern Regional AC had eight members present in person at the start of the meeting and a quorum was met.

Southern Regional AC Vice Chair Tom Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The full meeting recording can be viewed [here](#).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Glenn Skinner and seconded by Pam Morris. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2024, meeting was made by Pam Morris and seconded by Glenn Skinner. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Samuel Boyce to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2024, meeting with the amended wording on page 4 to say “Brunswick River” instead of “Brunswick County”. The motion was seconded by Glenn Skinner and passed without dissent.



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PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT EASTERN OYSTER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 5

Eastern Oyster species leads Joe Facendola and Bennett Paradis gave a presentation on draft Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and the Division of Marine Fisheries preliminary recommendations for that plan.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT HARD CLAM FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 3

Hard Clam species leads Lorena de la Garza and Jeff Dobbs gave a presentation on draft Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3 and the Division of Marine Fisheries preliminary recommendations for that plan.

[View the video recording of the presentation and surrounding discussion.](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT

A public comment period began at 7:42 p.m. and ended at 7:47 p.m. One member of the public, Wesley Potter, provided public comment.

[View the video recording of the public comment period.](#)

VOTE TO RECOMMEND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Vice Chair Smith opened the floor to discuss potential management options for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3.

Motion by Samuel Boyce to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission ask the Division of Marine Fisheries to further explore potential options and develop a solution to quantify recreational shellfish participation and landings, and to establish a mechanism to provide all recreational shellfish harvesters with SSRWQ health and safety information outside of the FMP process. Second by Michael Oppedard. Motion carries.

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

Motion by Samuel Boyce that the AC supports a significantly narrower approach to DORAs than what is described in the issue paper with the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the closures before considering closing the majority of the area. Second by Michael Yates. Motion passes without dissent.

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

Motion by Michael Oppedard to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission adopt the proposed Cultch-Supported Harvest Strategy as described in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Management Issue Paper. Second by Samuel Boyce. Motion passes with one abstention.

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)



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Motion by Glenn Skinner to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission adopt the Rotational Cultch Site Strategy as described in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Management Issue Paper. Second by Michael Yates. Motion passes without dissent.

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

Motion by Samuel Boyce to recommend that the Marine Fisheries Commission adopt the adaptive management framework as described in the Mechanical Oyster Harvest Issue Paper. Second by Michael Oppegaard. Motion passes 5-4.

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

Motion by Glenn Skinner to maintain the status quo in the mechanical clam fishery. Second by Pam Morris. Motion passes 6-1, with 2 abstentions.

[View the video recording of this motion and surrounding discussion.](#)

ISSUES FROM AC MEMBERS

Jesse Bisette gave updates concerning the recent MFC business meeting and plans for future meetings.

[View the video recording of this update.](#)

Sam Boyce motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mike Oppegaard. Motion passed by unanimous consent. The meeting ended at 9:09 p.m.