



DRAFT

JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

January 22, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission
Northern Regional Advisory Committee

FROM: Coral Sawyer, MFC Program Assistant
Marine Fisheries Commission Office

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Marine Fisheries Commission’s Northern Regional Advisory Committee, January 7, 2025, to provide recommendations for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5 and Hard Clam FMP Amendment 3.

The Marine Fisheries Commission’s (MFC) Northern Regional Advisory Committee (AC) held a meeting on January 7, 2025, at the Dare County Administration Building in Manteo, 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: Sara Winslow, Keith Bruno, Herman “Wayne” Dunbar, Melissa Clark, Stuart Creighton, Robert Makowsky, Jonathan Worthington. The following member were in attendance online: Morton Gaskill, Thomas Newman. (Absent: Everett Blake, Jamie Lane Winslow)

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, Captain Chris Lee, Bennett Paradis, Lorena de la Garza, Joe Facendola, Charlton Godwin, Sgt. Edward Mann, Officer Jacob Williams.

Public: James Fletcher, Bobby Smith, Fletcher O’Neal, Ian Perna

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

Northern Regional AC Chair Sara Winslow called the meeting to order at 5:59 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 Jonathan Worthington and seconded by Melissa Clark. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2024, and October 08, 2024, meetings was made by Jonathan Worthington and seconded by Kieth Bruno. The motion passed unanimously.



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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 begin at 7:39 p.m. and ended at 7:48 p.m. Two members of the public, James Fletcher and Bobby Smith, provided public comment.

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

VOTE TO RECOMMEND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

EASTERN OYSTER FMP AMENDMENT 5

Chair Sara Winslow opened the floor to discuss potential management options for the Eastern Oyster FMP Amendment 5.

Motion by Stuart Creighton to endorse the MFC tasking the DMF with exploring options for a recreational shellfish license/permit outside of the FMP process. Second by Robert Makowsky. Motion passed 8-1.

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

Motion by Keith Bruno to keep options 2 (cultch supported harvest areas) and 3 (rotational cultch sites) with the intent to streamline and adapt procedure for sampling vessels (based on Dan Bolin's study). Because of the unknown advantages and known disadvantages to the commercial industry, the Northern Regional AC does not recommend the Deepwater Oyster Recovery Areas management strategy. Second by Morton Gaskill. Motion passed 7-2.

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

Motion by Robert Makowsky to recommend adopting the adaptive management framework as proposed by the DMF in the cultch supported harvest strategy. Second by Stuart Creighton. Motion passed 8-1.

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



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HARD CLAM FMP AMENDMENT 3

Chair Sara Winslow opened the floor to discuss potential management options for the Clam FMP Amendment 3.

Motion by Stuart Creighton to endorse the MFC tasking the DMF with exploring options for a recreational shellfish license/permit outside of the FMP process. Second by Jonathan Worthington. Motion passed 8-1.

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

Motion by Stuart Creighton to support the Division's recommendation to phase out mechanical clam harvest as listed in the mechanical clam harvest issue paper. Second by Robert Makowsky. Motion failed 3-5.

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

Motion by Wayne Dunbar for mechanical clam harvest to stay at status quo. Second by Melissa Clark. Motion passed 6-3.

[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.](#)

Jonathan Worthington motioned to adjourn, seconded by Wayne Dunbar. Motion passed by unanimous consent. The meeting ended at 08:29 p.m.