

Motions
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting
Nov. 15-16, 2017

Motion by Rick Smith to approve agenda with amendment that delays vote on cobia management to Thursday morning. Second by Mike Wicker.
Motion carries with no objection.

Minutes from the August 2017 meeting approved by consensus.

At-Large Council Nominations

Motion by Chuck Laughridge to recommend Anna Beckwith, Robert Lorenz and Tom Roller for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large seat. Second by Brad Koury.
Motion carries unanimously.

Motion by Chuck Laughridge to recommend Sara Winslow, Roger Rulifson and Joseph Smith for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large seat. Second by Rick Smith.
Motion carries unanimously.

Draft Region 4 Strategic Habitat Area Nominations

Motion by Mike Wicker to send draft Region 4 Strategic Habitat Area report out for public comment at advisory committees. Second by Mark Gorges.
Motion carries unanimously.

2018 Recreational Cobia Limit and Season Recommendations

Motion by Alison Willis to adopt the Northern Advisory Committee's recommendation for recreational bag limits for the 2018 cobia season:

- One-fish per person, not to exceed 4-fish per vessel, for charter vessels;
- One fish per person, not to exceed 2-fish per vessel, for the private sector;
- No closed season

Also, to ask the Division of Marine Fisheries to study development of a mandatory reporting program for recreational cobia catch. Second by Chuck Laughridge.

Roll call vote:

Gorges - no

Koury - yes

Laughridge - no

Rose - yes

Smith - no

Wicker - no

Willis - yes

Corbett - yes

Motion fails for lack of majority.

Motion by Rick Smith to adopt recreational management measures for cobia as follows:

- April 15-July 1 season,

- One-fish per person, 3-fish per vessel for charter vessels
- One-fish per person, 2-fish per vessel for private sector
- July 2-Oct 1,
 - One fish per person per vessel for charter and private
 - Closed season Oct. 1-April 14

Motion fails for lack of second.

Motion by Alison Willis to adopt recreational bag limits for cobia as follows:

- One-fish per person, not to exceed 4-fish per vessel, for charter vessels;
- One fish per person, not to exceed 2-fish per vessel, for the private sector;
- May 15 to Labor Day season for private sector

Also, to ask the Division of Marine Fisheries to study development of a mandatory reporting program for recreational cobia catch. Second by Chuck Laughridge.

Roll call vote:

Gorges - no

Koury - yes

Laughridge - yes

Rose - yes

Smith - no

Wicker - no

Willis - yes

Corbett - yes

Motion carries 5-3.

Coastal Habitat Protection Plan

Motion by Chuck Laughridge to approve the 2018-2020 Biennial Implementation Plan to the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan. Second by Janet Rose.

Motion carries unanimously.

Reporting Commercial Landings That Are Not Sold

Motion by Rick Smith to ask the Division of Marine Fisheries to study reporting issues concerning finfish landings that are caught with a Standard Commercial Fishing License and not sold, and to ask the division to come back to the commission in February 2018 with proposals for resolutions of the issues. Second by Chuck Laughridge.

Motion carries 5-0 with 2 abstentions.

Definition of Commercial Fisherman

Motion by Chuck Laughridge to ask the chairman to appoint a committee of commission members to develop a definition of a commercial fisherman, with staff support from the Division of Marine Fisheries, to bring an update back to the commission at its February 2018 meeting. Second by Mike Wicker.

Motion carries 7-1.

Summer Flounder Letters

Motion by Alison Willis to send a letter to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council highlighting the importance of the summer

flounder fishery in North Carolina and requesting that proposed management concerning quota allocation include a broad range in options that considers the historic fisheries of the member states. Second by Chuck Laughridge.

Motion carries 7-0 with one abstention.

2018 Recreational Cobia Limit and Season Recommendations (continued)

Motion by Chuck Laughridge to reconsider the motion offered by Alison Willis related to cobia and approved by the commission. Second by Mark Gorges.

Roll call vote:

Gorges - yes

Koury - yes

Laughridge - yes

Rose - no

Smith - yes

Wicker - no

Willis - yes

Corbett – did not vote

Motion carries 5-2.

Motion by Mark Gorges to amend the motion by striking the following phrase as below. Second by Chuck Laughridge.

Motion by Alison Willis to adopt recreational bag limits for cobia as follows:

- one-fish per person, not to exceed 4-fish per vessel, for charter vessels;
- one fish per person, not to exceed 2-fish per vessel, for the private sector;
- ~~May 15 to Labor Day season for private sector~~

Also, to ask the Division of Marine Fisheries to study development of a mandatory reporting program for recreational cobia catch. Second by Chuck Laughridge.

Motion to amend carries 6-1.

Commissioner Willis' cobia motion as amended carries 6-1.