

Committee Reports





North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory
Governor

John E. Skvarla, III
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission
Finfish Advisory Committee

FROM: Jason Rock
Casey Knight

DATE: March 12, 2014

SUBJECT: Finfish Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2014

The Marine Fisheries Commission Finfish Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, Mar. 11, 2014 at 6 p.m. at the Craven County Cooperative Extension, 300 Industrial Drive, New Bern. The following attended:

Advisers: Commissioner Allyn Powell, Jerry James, Sara Winslow, Jeff McBane, Jeff Buckel, Leland Tetterton, Ken Seigler, Brent Fulcher

Staff: Jason Rock, Casey Knight, Lee Paramore, Catherine Blum, Carter Witten, Dan Zapf

Public: Jan Willis, Cathy Fulcher, Jonathan Fulcher, Steve Weeks, Aundrea O'Neal

Allyn Powell, serving as chair, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. He reminded the committee of the duty regarding conflict of interest.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Jeff McBane moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Jerry James. The motion passed 7-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Sara Winslow moved to approve the Feb. 4, 2014 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Leland Tetterton. The motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

STRIPED MULLET FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 1 LIFE HISTORY SECTION

Division staff member Casey Knight gave a presentation on the life history section of the draft

Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1. She reviewed background information about the species, as well as information about physio-chemical tolerances and preferences; reproductive biology; age, growth and development; and movement and migration.

The committee asked Casey Knight about the data used, specifically samples used for the gonadosomatic index calculations. Jason Rock, division biologist, clarified that these calculations used samples collected from the offshore fisheries for as far as we have access to. The committee also discussed the tagging studies and the need for more robust studies in the future that could be conducted over longer periods of time and account for seasonal variations.

STRIPED MULLET FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 1 HABITAT SECTION

Division staff member Jason Rock gave a presentation on the habitat section of the draft plan. He reviewed information about the N.C. Coastal Habitat Protection Plan, including habitats and their use by striped mullet; status and threats; and Strategic Habitat Areas. Rock also reviewed water quality information, including sources of poor water quality and impacts to striped mullet; status of and threats to water quality; habitat and water quality protection; and habitat and water quality recommendations.

The committee had no questions or comments on this section.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Ken Seigler requested the committee discuss the issue of allowing a spotted seatrout fishing operation consisting of more than one Standard Commercial Fishing License-holder onboard to be in possession of up to two daily harvest limits at its next meeting. Seigler said this is an issue of access to the fishery, similar to one that just occurred in the estuarine striped bass fishery; not an issue that impacts the number of fish harvested.

The committee agreed by consensus to add a discussion on the issue of allowing a spotted seatrout fishing operation consisting of more than one Standard Commercial Fishing License-holder onboard to be in possession of up to two daily harvest limits to its next meeting agenda for discussion.

Also, at the next meeting staff will present the commercial, recreational and socio-economic sections of the draft plan. The Finfish Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for April 1, 2014 is cancelled. The next meeting will be held April 15 at 6 p.m. at the division's Central District Office in Morehead City.

Allyn Powell adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Cc:	Catherine Blum	Jess Hawkins	Meredith Wilson
	Mike Bulleri	Jennie Hauser	District Managers
	Scott Conklin	Dee Lupton	Committee Staff Members
	Dick Brame	Jessica Marlies	Marine Patrol Captains
	Louis Daniel	Nancy Marlette	Section Chiefs
	Charlotte Dexter	Gerry Smith	



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory
Governor

John E. Skvarla, III
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission
Finfish Advisory Committee

FROM: Jason Rock
Casey Knight

DATE: April 21, 2014

SUBJECT: Finfish Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2014

The Marine Fisheries Commission Finfish Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 6 p.m. at the Division of Marine Fisheries Central District Office, 5285 Highway 70 West, Morehead City. The following attended:

Advisers: Sara Winslow, Leland Tetterton, Jeff Buckel, Ken Seigler, Brent Fulcher, Scott Whitley

Staff: Jason Rock, Casey Knight, Lee Paramore, Kathy Rawls, Catherine Blum, Capt. Steve Anthony, Officer Neil Kendrick, John Hadley, Chip Collier

Public: C.R. Frederick, Jan Willis, Kelly Maxwell, Jeff Odum, Art Barlow, Chris Vealey, David Jarvis, Chris McCaffity, Arnold Asdenti, John Willis, Adam Tyler, Bradley Styron, Alex Chadwick, Cayton Daniels, Lucas Styron, Gurney Lee Collins III, Danny Rimmer, Donnie Cannon, Kenny Rustick, Glen Hadder, Cecil Simons

Commissioners: None

Division staff member Lee Paramore, serving as chair, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Brent Fulcher moved to modify the agenda to move the discussion of spotted seatrout access to the beginning of the meeting instead of the end, seconded by Jeff Buckel. The motion passed 6-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Leland Tetterton moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Brent Fulcher. The motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

C.R. Frederick, a commercial fisherman suggested the public comment period be held at the end of the meeting after the committee discussions. He said he would like to see the presentations and hear what the committee has to say before he gives his comments.

The committee briefly discussed having public comment at the end of the meeting versus at the beginning of the meeting. Lee Paramore suggested that those who would like to speak now may do so and others can opt to wait until the end.

The committee agreed to hold public comment as originally scheduled and after the presentations by consensus.

Bradley Styron, a commercial fisherman and dealer, expressed support for two harvest limits of spotted seatrout when two license-holders are involved in a commercial operation. He said this allows fishermen to combine expenses and address safety concerns. Also, he said he does not support raising the spawning potential ratio to 35-percent for the Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan. He said that plan is just not working. He said it is just like weakfish, starting with 21 years ago when flynetting south of Cape Hatteras was eliminated and now there is only a 100-pound limit. Raising the spawning potential ratio only provides more ammunition for not achieving reductions. He said the striped mullet fishery is doing fine. Styron said the same thing has occurred in the red drum fishery. Draconian measures were put in place in 1998 and since then, there has been a 40-percent spawning potential ratio. We are facing a complete closure this summer because we went over this year. He said that tells him the 40-percent spawning potential ratio was accurate and there are plenty of fish. This is another plan that is not working. Styron said it is time to look at fishery management plans for what they are. We are going backward. If this was private enterprise it would not work. In some ways it is private enterprise because these commercial fishermen are depending on it. He said we need to be more respectful of the industry and temper the plans with common sense and not just use science.

Chris McCaffity, a commercial fisherman in Morehead City, said he is an advocate for fisheries because of concerns about waste, especially waste that occurs in the snapper grouper fisheries, but also waste in state fisheries. He said we are wasting more fish than we are using to feed people. Regarding the stock assessment data and raising the spawning potential ratio for striped mullet, McCaffity said it will just create more regulatory discards. He supports the idea of two harvest limits of spotted seatrout when two license-holders are involved in a commercial operation. This would provide for a reduction in gear used and potentially less user conflicts, less regulatory discards, and an increase in consumer access. He encouraged the committee to recommend this to the Marine Fisheries Commission. Regarding red drum not opening until the fall, he said there are plenty of fish out there. He recommended a rolling stock assessment that takes full advantage of the available technology which could allow for setting a quota each year based on the outcome. McCaffity supports quotas, especially with the possibility of gamefish status. He said stock assessments need to use accurate data and be completed in a timely fashion. Next, he expressed that he was saddened by the commission voting to eliminate the river herring discretionary harvest season. He said the river herring fishery is North Carolina's oldest fishery and is a heritage fishery. He said the Edenton hatchery released over 2,000,000 fish, specifically blueback herring. He said they are capable of producing more and more should be stocked. He recommended allowing a

portion of the stocked blueback herring to be harvested under a separate quota. McCaffity said he is making every effort to ensure the Jamesville River Herring Festival receives some of the herring from the discretionary harvest this year. He said he has discussed this with Marine Fisheries Director, Dr. Louis Daniel. Daniel said he will reconsider his position on eliminating the discretionary harvest if the festival receives some of those herring this year. Lastly, he recommended a way to further define the universe of anglers by adding a field or check box on license applications to determine if a fisherman bottom-fishes in federal waters. He feels it would be cost effective and an easier to sample this group.

Lee Collins, of Beaufort Inlet Seafood, said he supports allowing two harvest limits of spotted seatrout when two license-holders are involved in a commercial operation. He said this is for economic reasons and for fair and equitable treatment of commercial fishermen compared to recreational fishermen. For instance, right now a boat with five recreational fishermen can have five recreational bag limits on board, but a commercial operation is held to only one limit, even if two licensed fishermen are on board. This even extends to having only one limit in a truck coming to the fish house even if two fishermen each caught fish that day; meaning they have to come in separate vehicles. Collins said this needs to be more fair. There are more recreational fishermen and they are creating more pressure on the fishery. All that commercial fishermen are looking for is a fair shake.

DISCUSSION OF SPOTTED SEATROUT ACCESS

Division staff member Chip Collier gave some background information on the topic of allowing two harvest limits of spotted seatrout when two license-holders are involved in a commercial operation. The issue was investigated in the original fishery management plan, but the Division of Marine Fisheries did not have information from the trip tickets showing this occurred historically; so it was not incorporated into the plan. He said staff is currently going through the stock assessment process, which should be completed by the end of 2014. Allowing two harvest limits would require an amendment to the plan. By the time the steps would be followed for an amendment, the division will have the results of the stock assessment and would likely be amending the plan anyway. He suggested this discussion is for the committee to express its recommendations, not for staff to advise the committee.

The committee discussed at length how the required reductions were calculated to achieve a sustainable harvest in the spotted seatrout fishery when the plan was developed. The comments focused on whether all commercial license holders were assumed to participate in the fishery in order to calculate the required reductions. Collier said since the spotted seatrout population is so variable, a 5-year average of harvest was used for the calculations. He said for the commercial harvest, an average weight of fish per trip was calculated using trip tickets. For the recreational harvest, the calculations were based per person since that is the basis for intercept surveys. Reductions were correspondingly calculated by weight for the commercial fishery and by bag limit for the recreational fishery.

Committee members suggested commercial fishermen neither fish every day nor do they always catch the maximum limit of 75 fish per trip. Collier reminded the committee the harvest limits in place, once the season reopens June 15, are only expected to achieve a 40-percent reduction, which is only part of the required reduction needed to achieve a sustainable harvest. Some of the committee members questioned whether or not allowing two harvest limits is anything more than an

economic issue. Collier stated allowing two limits would increase harvest and would be a management change to the plan; it will require a plan amendment to change management measures.

The committee began discussing the estuarine striped bass fishery, where allowing multiple limits in a commercial operation brought new participants into the fishery that were not part of previous stock assessment calculations; this could happen in the spotted seatrout fishery, too. Collier said the advisory committee for the development of the original Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan did not identify allowing two harvest limits as a concern, but this can certainly be considered in the context of the next review of the plan in 2015 that will begin as soon as the stock assessment is completed in late 2014.

Leland Tetterton moved to recommend to the Marine Fisheries Commission amending the Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan to allow two harvest limits when there are two license-holders on a vessel, seconded by Ken Seigler. Paramore clarified this would be for a single limit of gear in the commercial operation. The motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

C.R. Frederick, a commercial fisherman from Swansboro, asked Collier what the biggest user group is in the spotted seatrout fishery. Collier said the fishery is approximately 70-75-percent recreational. Frederick said the commercial fishery is heavily governed; he wondered if staff had ever considered putting a cap on the number of recreational licenses in regards to sustainable harvest. He said his suggestion is not meant to be disparaging towards the recreational fishermen, but is about achieving a sustainable harvest. He said if the largest user group is continuing to grow, this is an area to look at. Make it fair for everyone to have an equal opportunity.

The committee asked for clarification from Collier about how the recreational reductions were calculated. He said recreational limits were based on historical participation, not projecting what recreational license sales would do in the future. He acknowledged it is a good idea for staff to look at trends in the context of the next review of the plan. The committee added that recreational participation is increasing and commercial participation is decreasing, so that needs to be considered when reductions are calculated.

Glen Hadder, commercial fisherman, said you cannot control spotted seatrout and asked what has been gained from the management measures in place. One cold stun event shuts everything down. He questioned why we are here to discuss this.

The committee said many people depend on the spotted seatrout fishery and they cannot work at all in it when the fishery is totally shut down from a cold stun event. They suggested there should be a reduced take instead of no harvest. Paramore said of these things will need to be considered in the context of the next review of the plan and are broader than the discussion for this meeting.

STRIPED MULLET FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 1 COMMERCIAL FISHERY SECTION

Division staff member Jason Rock gave a PowerPoint presentation on the striped mullet commercial fishery to the committee. He provided background information the history of the fishery and the trip ticket program. He also provided detailed information about the commercial landings broken

down by annual information, seasons, counties, water bodies, trip characterization, market grade, and gear. There were no questions from the committee.

STRIPED MULLET FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 1
SOCIOECONOMICS SECTION

Division staff member John Hadley gave a PowerPoint presentation on the socioeconomics of the striped mullet fishery to the committee. He began with an overview of the fishery and the striped mullet markets. He also discussed the trends in ex-vessel value of landings, as well as trends and seasonality of price. Hadley provided information on commercial fishery activity, gear and participation, the recreational fishery, social factors, and economic importance.

The committee asked a few clarifying questions about the impact from sales of striped mullet beyond a fisherman as well as how landings from Recreational Commercial Gear License-holders are handled. Hadley said he focuses on the impacts of commercial fishing, not where the product goes.

STRIPED MULLET FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 1
RECREATIONAL FISHERY SECTION

Division staff member Casey Knight gave a PowerPoint presentation on the striped mullet recreational fishery to the committee. She provided information on the Coastal Recreational Fishing License Cast Net and Seine Survey, Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey/Marine Recreational Information Program, and Recreational Commercial Gear License Survey.

The committee asked a few clarifying questions about the characterization of fish from the Recreational Commercial Gear License data. They also inquired about the mixing of white mullet and striped mullet and efforts to separate some of that data when possible.

Paramore asked if there were any more public comments. Knight said staff would like to cancel the committee's May 6 meeting and hold the next meeting June 10. She will contact the committee to confirm the date and location of the next meeting since there were a few schedule conflicts to secure meeting venues. The committee agreed to this schedule by consensus.

Brent Fulcher moved to adjourn, seconded by Leland Tetterton. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Cc: Catherine Blum
Mike Bulleri
Scott Conklin
Dick Brame
Louis Daniel
Charlotte Dexter

Jess Hawkins
Jennie Hauser
Dee Lupton
Jessica Marlies
Nancy Marlette
Gerry Smith

Meredith Wilson
District Managers
Committee Staff Members
Marine Patrol Captains
Section Chiefs



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory
Governor

John E. Skvarla, III
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Fisheries Commission

FROM: Beth Govoni,
CRFL Project Coordinator

DATE: April 16, 2014

SUBJECT: Coastal Recreational Fishing License Committee Meeting

The Marine Fisheries Commission Coastal Recreational Fishing License Committee met at the Division of Marine Fisheries headquarters conference room on April 16, 2014. The following attended (*via teleconference):

Committee: Kelly Darden*, Mark Gorges*, Joe Shute, Louis Daniel

Staff: Dee Lupton, Suzanne Guthrie, Don Hesselman, Craig Hardy, Mike Marshall, Nancy Fish, Beth Govoni

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Louis Daniel, Director of the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, called the meeting to order. Daniel reminded Committee of the Conflict of Interest. Daniel called roll.

The meeting agenda was approved by consensus with no modifications.

The minutes from the December 10, 2013 meeting was approved by consensus with no modifications

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris McCaffity attended to meeting and spoke during the public comment period. He commented on the turtle observer program. Mr. McCaffity stated that there needs to be independent recreational and commercial platforms for observers. He expressed a concern having observers on recreational vessels. He stated it would pose a liability. He also stated he would like to see some CRFL funding for used recreational observers. Furthermore, Mr. McCaffity recommended that Marine Fisheries should review the recreational commercial gear license. He asked if Marine Fisheries can we let those fishermen buy some of those latent commercial gear licenses and potentially use that as a way to raise money.

UPDATES

The committee received updates on the Coastal Recreational Fishing license sales report.

The committee was updated on the status of on-going/previously funded Coastal Recreational Fishing License projects from 2007-2013 with semi-annual progress reports and annual progress reports.

ADDITIONAL-YEAR FUNDING PROJECTS

The committee unanimously approved continued funding for one 2010 multi-year project, requesting funding for fiscal year 2014 – 2015:

Marine Fisheries Fellowship Program, Year Five Funding (2010-F-007) – \$39,599

The Marine Fisheries Fellowship Program is a five-year North Carolina State University project. The grant funds fishery fellowships to enhance priority research projects to support needs identified in fishery management plans and the Coastal Habitat Protection plan.

Motion by Joe Shute to approve the 2010 project requesting funding in fiscal year 2015, seconded by Kelly Darden – motion carries.

The committee unanimously approved funding for four 2012 multi-year projects, requesting funding for fiscal year 2014 – 2015:

Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise, Year Three Funding (2012-F-004) - \$125,105

The Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise is a three-year East Carolina University project. The grant funds tagging of striped bass and Atlantic sturgeon off the coasts of North Carolina and Virginia.

Inshore Fishing/Oyster Reefs, Year Three Funding (2012-H-002) - \$502,215

The Inshore Fishing/Oyster Reef project is a three-year Division of Marine Fisheries project. The grant funds a project to increase accessibility to recreational angling by creating three fishing reefs in close proximity to coastal towns and public boat ramps.

Take a Kid Fishing, Year Three Funding (2012-P-001) - \$25,000

Take a Kid Fishing is a three-year project provided disadvantaged and disabled youth the opportunity to go fishing.

Saltwater Fishing Tournament Efficiency Increase (2012-P-003) - \$18,980

The Saltwater Fishing Tournament Efficiency Increase grant is a three-year Division of Marine Fisheries Project. The grant funds are used to help enhance and support the Citation Program while increasing efficiency as the number of citation applications processed continues to increase.

Motion by Mark Gorges to approve the four 2012 projects requesting funding in fiscal year 2015, seconded by Kelly Darden– motion carries.

The committee unanimously approved funding for fourteen 2013 multi-year projects, requesting funding for fiscal year 2014 – 2015:

Beaufort Bridget Survey (2013-F-008) - \$41,500

The Beaufort Bridget Survey is a two-year NOAA project. The funds will be used to process a backlog of unsorted samples and incorporate that data into the existing dataset.

Mark Recapture Study of Cape Fear Striped Bass (2013-F-010) - \$9,535

The Mark Recapture study is a four-year Division of Marine Fisheries project to research the sustainability of the Cape Fear River striped bass population.

Sources of Mortality and Movements of Weakfish (2013-F-011) - \$118,317

Sources of Mortality and Movements of Weakfish is a four-year North Carolina State University project to study factors affecting weakfish stocks.

North Carolina Red Drum Cooperative Tagging Program (2013-F-012) - \$12,500

The N.C. Red Drum Cooperative Tagging Program is a three-year Division of Marine Fisheries project to continue red drum tagging for determining exploitation rates.

Assessing Critical Habitat, Movement Patterns, and Spawning Grounds of Anadromous Fishes in the Tar/Pamlico, Neuse, and Cape Fear Rivers Using Telemetry Techniques (2013-F-013) - \$172,318

This is a three-year project to identify critical spawning habitat, map migration routes and spawning grounds and potentially improve fishery-independent surveys.

Investigating Salinity Fluxes on Natural and Restored Habitat Bottom (2013-H-004) - \$113,975

Investigating Salinity Fluxes on Natural and Restored Habitat Bottom is a two-year University of North Carolina grant to study on salinity regimes to inform managers on best locations for habitat enhancement projects including artificial fishing reefs and oyster sanctuary reefs.

FerryMon: N.C. Department of Transportation Based Automated Monitoring (2013-H-006) - \$146,118

FerryMon is a three- year University of North Carolina to continue the long term, continuous water quality monitoring in the Pamlico Sound.

Comparing the Use of Nominated SHA and Non-SHA Coastal Marsh Habitats-\$93,386

Comparing the Use of Nominated SHA and Non-SHA Coastal Marsh Habitats is a two-year University of North Carolina grant to examine fish use in western Pamlico Sound wetlands dominated by wind-driven tides and the link between fish productivity and habitat condition.

Incorporating Stakeholder Knowledge of the Status and Value of Coastal Habitats-\$32,736

Incorporating Stakeholder Knowledge is a two-year University of North Carolina grant which will use a series of socioeconomic surveys of NC residents to collect ecologically relevant data on the perceived health of and threats to coastal habitats and fisheries.

Trends in Fish Utilization of Low vs. High Relief-\$110,871

Trends in Fish Utilization is a two-year University of North Carolina grant to investigate fish utilization of artificial structures both near shore and offshore and evaluate the benefit of relief off the bottom of these structures.

“There’s Something Fishy about Salt Marsh, Oyster Reef, and Seagrass Habitat.” - \$39,459
“There’s Something Fishy about Salt Marsh” is a two-year University of North Carolina grant to target habitat education strategies that are important to improve the public’s understanding of the fish habitat relationship and foster environmental stewardship.

Development of a Comprehensive Salinity Database - \$78,507
Development of a Comprehensive Salinity Database is a two-year University of North Carolina grant to develop a salinity database for North Carolina with sufficiently high spatial and temporal resolution to simultaneously examine salinity effects on critical fish habitat.

Effects of Landscape Setting on the Function of Seagrass Meadows - \$111,612
Effects of Landscape Setting is a two-year University of North Carolina grant to examine how differing habitat landscape settings and seasonal changes in submerged aquatic vegetation affects fish use, fish health due to diet and competition among species.

Vandemere Waterfront Park Initiative - \$333,333
Vandemere Waterfront Park Initiative is a three-year grant to purchase property and construct a boating access area in Pamlico County.

Motion by Joe Shute to approve the fourteen 2013 projects requesting funding in fiscal year 2015, seconded by Mark Gorges – motion carries.

COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE STRATEGIC PLAN

The CRFL Strategic Plan remains the same as that which was reviewed/approved in the spring of 2013, except for the addition of law enforcement.

Commissioner Joe Shute expressed favor of law enforcement of being included in the Strategic Plan.

Motion by Kelly Darden to approve the revised CRFL Strategic Plan, seconded by Joe Shute – motion carries.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The 2015 RFP has been revised to flow in a more logical manner. The content remains consistent with the 2014 RFP.

Motion by Joe Shute to approve the 2015 RFP, seconded by Mark Gorges – motion carries.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

No Additional Business discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory
Governor

John E. Skvarla, III
Secretary

MEMORANDUM:

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission
Conservation Fund Committee

FROM: Randy Gregory
Division of Marine Fisheries, NCDENR

DATE: Feb. 24, 2014

SUBJECT: Conservation Fund Committee Meeting Minutes

The Marine Fisheries Commission Conservation Fund Committee met on Feb. 19, 2014 at 2:30 p.m., at the Division of Marine Fisheries Central District Office, 5285 Hwy. 70 W, Morehead City. The following attended:

Committee Members: Mark Gorges, Chuck Laughridge, Joseph Smith

Staff: Randy Gregory, Meredith Wilson, Patricia Smith

Public: None

Mark Gorges called the meeting to order and served as chair.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no modifications to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee approved the May 30, 2013 meeting minutes by consensus.

CONSERVATION FUND

Randy Gregory, staff lead for the committee, gave a brief summary of the Marine Fisheries Conservation Fund. The summary outlined the sources of the revenue, balance, history and General Statute that established the fund. The sources of revenue for the fund include:

- the N.C. Governor's Cup
- proceeds from the Duane Raver prints
- replacement cost from civil penalties
- gifts
- interest earned

The fund was established in 1987 and at that time the commission agreed not to use the money until the balance reached \$100,000. The fund has been used for the Marine Fisheries Fellowship program, to print recreational fishing brochures, to produce educational videos. Also, the commission recently approved using the fund for outreach regarding interactions with protected species on fishing piers and the observer program. The current balance is \$199,578.78.

Gregory explained the income generated by the Governor's Cup Series. Each participating boat or team pays a \$125 entry fee each year to compete in the series, which is divided between the Conservation Fund (\$100) and the division's Fisheries Management Section (\$25). Fisheries Management uses these funds to administer the series. Most of the entry fees are collected in May and June. For the last several years, Fisheries Management has lost the use of these funds due to budget directives that restrict purchasing near the end of the state's fiscal year. The unused funds revert to the state's general fund. In order to prevent the loss of these operating funds, Fisheries Management needs the committee's approval to deposit the funds in the Conservation Fund account, which is a non-reverting account.

Chuck Laughridge moved to approve depositing the \$25 Governor's Cup Series entry fee used by Fisheries Management to administer the series in the Conservation Fund for use by Fisheries Management, seconded by Joe Smith. Motion carried without dissent.

The meeting adjourned.

Cc:	Catherine Blum	Jess Hawkins	Gerry Smith
	Mike Bulleri	Jennie Hauser	District Managers
	Scott Conklin	Dee Lupton	Committee Staff Members
	Dick Brame	Jessica Marlies	Marine Patrol Captains
	Louis Daniel	Nancy Marlette	Section Chiefs
	Charlotte Dexter		