# MFC Sea Turtle Advisory Committee Meeting
# NCDMF Central District Office – 5285 Highway 70 West – Morehead City, NC
# March 21, 2013 at 6 – 9 p.m.

## AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Modifications to the Agenda
- Approval of November 29, 2012 Meeting Minutes—**Action**
- Introduction and Opening Remarks—Bob Lorenz
- Public Comment Period
- Review Role of the Sea Turtle Advisory Committee—Bob Lorenz
- At-Sea Observer Program Budget Presentation—Dee Lupton
- Observer Program Update—Chris Batsavage
- Sea Turtle Incidental Take Permit (ITP) Application update—Chris Batsavage
- Other Business
    - Proposed Expansion of Hammocks Beach State Park Sea Turtle Sanctuary
    - Sea Turtle Interactions in Recreational Hook and Line Fishery
- Adjourn

***Role of the Sea Turtle Advisory Committee -*** *As outlined in the agreement to settle a lawsuit filed against the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission, the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries and Director Louis Daniel in federal court by the Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic on behalf of the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, the duties of the advisory committee include, but are not limited to:*

- *Reviewing monthly Division of Marine Fisheries sea turtle observer reports and fishing effort data:*
- *Reviewing weekly Wildlife Resources Commission stranding reports;*
- *Monitoring/advising the Division of Marine Fisheries on sea turtle observer program concerns;*
- *Devising means for fishermen to report sea turtle interactions;*
- *Assisting with fishermen education about sea turtle biology, population and threats to survival;*
- *Identifying/advising on measures to reduce the incidental take of sea turtles, including gear modification and seasonal restrictions;*
- *Identifying/advising on measures to reduce the incidental take of sea turtles in other state-managed fisheries; and*
- *Reviewing/providing comment on all Incidental Take Permit provisions and take calculations prior to formal application to the National Marine Fisheries Service.*