MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

FROM: Meredith Wilson

DATE: October 25, 2013

SUBJECT: Summary of At-Sea Observer Program Public Hearing on Funding - Wilmington

The Division of Marine Fisheries held a public hearing regarding options for funding the At-Sea Observer Program. The hearing was held on Thursday, October 24th, 2013 at 6:00pm at the New Hanover County Executive Development Center located at 1241 Military Cutoff Road in Wilmington. The following attended:

DMF Staff:	Dee Lupton, Chris Batsavage, Don Hesselman, Suzanne Guthrie, Chip Collier, Meredith Wilson, Officer William Register, Officer Brian Eure
NC Fiscal Research:	Jennifer Hoffmann, Timothy Dale, Towers Mingledorff, Aubrey Incorvaia
NC Leg. Affairs:	Carr McLamb
Public:	Sam Wilson

Chris Batsavage called the meeting to order at 6:08pm. He introduced the staff from DMF, Fiscal Research, and Legislative Affairs that were present.

PRESENTATION: HEARINGS TO DETERMINE AN ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR THE AT-SEA OBSERVER PROGRAM

Chris Batsavage gave the prepared PowerPoint presentation which included information on the legislative charge to the division, benefits of the At-Sea Observer Program and its current needs, an outline of the Sea Turtle Incidental Take Permit, steps already taken by the division, and multiple options for further funding provided by staff. The presentation took approximately 15 minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Batsavage opened the floor to public comment. No one from the public asked to speak.

DMF, Fiscal Research, and Legislative Affairs staff discussed the topic at hand off the record.

Chris Batsavage adjourned the hearing at 7:31pm.

Minutes for this meeting will be available in a separate document at a later date.

cc: Dee Lupton
Chris Batsavage
Don Hesselman
Suzanne Guthrie
Chip Collier