

**Finfish Advisory Committee
Craven County Cooperative Extension
300 Industrial Drive, New Bern
March 11, 2014**

- 6 p.m. Call to Order*
Vote on the Approval of the Agenda**
Vote on Approval of Feb. 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes**
- 6:15p.m. Public Comment
Receive public comment on fisheries management issues under the scope of the committee
- 6:30 p.m. Present and discuss the Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1 Life History Section – Casey Knight (Presentation)
Receive a presentation on the Life History section of the Striped Mullet Management Plan Amendment 1 followed by questions and discussion.
- 7:30 p.m. Present and discuss the Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1 Habitat Section – Casey Knight (Presentation)
Receive a presentation on the Habitat section of the Striped Mullet Management Plan Amendment 1 followed by questions and discussion.
- 8:30 p.m. Discuss agenda for April 1, 2014 meeting
- 8:45 p.m. Adjourn

N.C.G.S. 138A-15(e) mandates at the beginning of any meeting of a board, the chair shall remind all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest under Chapter 138. The chair also shall inquire as to whether there is any known conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the board at that time.

N.C.G.S. 143B-289.54(g)(2) states a member of the Marine Fisheries Commission shall not vote on any issue before the Commission that would have a "significant and predictable effect" on the member's financial interest. For purposes of this subdivision, "significant and predictable effect" means there is or may be a close causal link between the decision of the Commission and an expected disproportionate financial benefit to the member that is shared only by a minority of persons within the same industry sector or gear group. A member of the Commission shall also abstain from voting on any petition submitted by an advocacy group of which the member is an officer or sits as a member of the advocacy group's board of directors. A member of the Commission shall not use the member's official position as a member of the Commission to secure any special privilege or exemption of substantial value for any person. No member of the Commission shall, by the member's conduct, create an appearance that any person could improperly influence the member in the performance of the member's official duties.

*Commissioners having questions about a conflict of interest or appearance of conflict should consult with counsel to the Marine Fisheries Commission or the secretary's ethics liaison. Upon discovering a conflict, the commissioner should inform the chair of the commission in accordance with N.C.G.S. 138A-15(e).****

** Times indicated are merely for guidance. The committee will proceed through the agenda until completed.*

***Action Items*

****Applies only to Marine Fisheries Commission members*

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is charged with the preparation and writing of proposed fishery management plans (FMP), for adoption by the Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC). To assist the DMF in the development of FMPs, the chair of the MFC appoints a fishery management plan advisory committee (AC) that is composed of commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, scientists, and others, all with expertise in the fishery for which the FMP is being developed. The following are the specific roles of appointed advisers in assisting the DMF in the development of FMPs:

- *Assist DMF staff in identifying and evaluating management issues and options to be addressed in the FMP*
- *Evaluate the impacts of management options on the resource and user groups*
- *Review and provide comments on all sections of the draft FMP for completeness and accuracy*
- *Assist the DMF in informing the public on the issues contained in the FMP*
- *Attend public meetings held in advisers' regional area*
- *Solicit comments from peers and bring comments back to the AC*