



“Their crab pots are preventing me from using my nets.”

Photo credit: Scott Taylor

Photo credit: Ray Midgett



“Their nets are crowding out my crabbing operations.”



Photo credit: Scott Taylor

How can I Arrange a Mediation?

Contact your local Division of Marine Fisheries office and ask to speak to someone about the Marine Fisheries Mediation Program.

Morehead City
252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632

Elizabeth City
252-264-3911 or 800-338-7805

Washington
252-946-6481 or 800-338-7804

Wilmington
910-796-7215 or 800-248-4536

Wanchese
252-473-5734

**Marine Patrol Office
Columbia**
252-796-1322 or 800-405-7774



“They have no right to set their nets in our creek.”

Photo credit: Mike Halmanski

“We’ve been fishing in this creek for generations.”

FISHERIES DISPUTES CAN BE MEDIATED

Are you involved in a fisheries related conflict?

Many fisheries-related disputes can be effectively resolved outside the official regulatory process through mediation. The goal of fisheries mediation is to help people in a dispute craft solutions that avoid new regulations and are amenable to all parties.

What is Mediation?

- Mediation is a proven conflict resolution method that aims to achieve a lasting resolution amenable to all parties.
- The parties involved in the dispute meet with independent and neutral mediators who help the parties work toward a mutually agreeable solution.
- Mediators provide a fair, impartial, confidential, and safe structure with ground rules for dialogue. Mediators have no power to decide how a dispute will be resolved.



Photo credit: Mike Halminski

The Mediation Session

- You and the other parties in conflict will meet together with two mediators in an informal setting.
- The mediators will help you identify key concerns and issues that led up to the dispute, help you explore options that work for all parties, and reach agreement on the best options that resolve your dispute.
- Once you have reached a solution that works, the mediators will help you develop a written plan that describes the resolution. This plan will be forwarded to the Division of Marine Fisheries for official action.

Who Mediates?

- The Mediation Center of Eastern Carolina in Greenville mediates disputes in counties from Pamlico County north.
- The ADR Center in Wilmington handles fisheries cases from Craven and Carteret counties south.
- All mediators are certified by the Mediation Network of North Carolina.

What Types of Disputes can be Mediated?

- *Gear*; Conflicts between users of different fishing gear types
- *Resource*; Conflicts between users over who gets to catch which fish
- *Space*; Conflicts between users vying for same area; sometimes a navigational, allocation, and/or public trust issue
- *Perceptual/aesthetic*; Conflicts deriving from one party perceiving damaging qualities of another



Photo credit: Paul Stephen