Agenda Item: 10-28 <u>Request to Send 2010 Updates to the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan to Public Meetings</u>

Explanation: The Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) Steering Committee has met over the past several months to update and revise the CHPP to reflect changes in the implementation goals and recommendations as the result of accomplishments, new information based on scientific studies and to add new areas of focus, such as sea level rise, climate change, and endocrine disrupting chemicals. These goals are all designed to achieve the CHPP's goal of the "long-term enhancement of coastal fisheries associated with each coastal habitat" for the benefit of the people of North Carolina. The CHPP Steering Committee revises every two years, Implementation Plans, containing goals, recommendations and action items for the participating commissions: Environmental Management Commission, Coastal Resources Commission, Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission, and their supporting agencies.

The five goals are: (1) Improve effectiveness of existing rules and programs protecting coastal fish habitats; (2) Identify, Designate and Protect Strategic Habitat Areas; (3) Enhance Habitat and Protect it from physical impacts; (4) Enhance and Protect Water Quality; and (5) Develop Coordinated Policies and Guidelines to increase resiliency of Fish Habitat to Climate Change.

Attached materials include the 2010 CHPP Goals Recommendations Table, Executive Summary and a brief PowerPoint Presentation (PPT) describing the CHPP progress during the period 2005-2010. The PPT outlines the accomplishments and status and trends in the six habitat systems described and delineated in the CHPP: water column, shell bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, wetlands, soft bottom, and hard bottom.

Recommendation: There is no staff recommendation at this time.