## N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Sea Turtle Advisory Committee Meeting N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Central District Office 5285 Highway 70 West, Morehead City, NC March 29, 2012 - 6 p.m.

## **Agenda**

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes from Oct. 27, 2011 Meeting
- Modifications to Agenda
- Public Comment
- Review of the Sea Turtle Settlement Agreement Michelle Nowlin, Duke Environmental Law and Policy Center
  - Committee Discussion, Questions and Comment
- Review of Observer Program Coverage and Sea Turtle Interactions– Jacob Boyd, Division of Marine Fisheries
- Update on the National Marine Fisheries Service Review of the Division of Marine Fisheries' Incidental Take Permit Application – Louis Daniel, Division of Marine Fisheries Director
  - Committee Discussion, Questions and Comment
- Review of Educational Materials for Fisherman Concerning Sea Turtle Interactions Lori Brinn, Sea Turtle Advisory
  Committee and Nancy Fish, Division of Marine Fisheries
- Discussion of Academic/Commercial Fisherman Gear Research Partnership Opportunities Robert Lorenz, Sea Turtle Advisory Committee Co-chair
- Discussion of other Fisheries that Interact with Sea Turtles Craig Harms, Sea Turtle Advisory Committee
- Planning and New Items
  - Date, Timing, Location for next STAC meeting
  - New Items
  - Agenda Suggestions and Follow-up
- Issues from Committee Members
- 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.

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