



**Fisheries Committee
Meeting Summary
November 6, 2013
9:00 – 11:00 am
Centennial Campus, Raleigh**

MEETING ATTENDEES

Committee Members

Wes Seegars, Chair
Joe Barker
Tim Spear

Commissioners

Tom Berry
Ray Clifton
Tommy Fonville
Michell Hicks

Garry Spence
Jim Cogdell
David Hoyle, Jr.

Staff

Mallory Martin
Betsy Haywood
Bob Curry
Christian Waters
Jodie Owen
Kyle Briggs
Erica Garner

Gordon Myers
David Cobb
Dale Caveny
Kate Pipkin
Chad Thomas
Erik Christofferson

Visitors

Ned Jones – Trout Unlimited
William Newton – NCBA
Russell Poole – NCBA

Diane Newton – NC Bowhunters Assn.
Fred Harris – NC Wildlife Federation

Wes Seegars, *Fisheries Committee Chair*, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

Chad Thomas, *Coastal Fisheries Supervisor*, gave a coastal fisheries update:

- NC River Herring Fisheries Management Plan – Thomas presented the draft of Amendment 2 to the River Herring Management Plan (FMP), which has been developed jointly with the NC Division of Marine Fisheries. The draft describes management options for key issues and provides recommendations for monitoring and research. The Fisheries
Action: Committee unanimously endorsed the release of the draft of Amendment 2 for public comments.
- CRFL Project Review – recent legislation removed the NCWRC from the formal funding approval process with the Marine Fisheries Commission; however, WRC remains as a consultant. Staff assisted with review of 37 proposals for a total request of more than 8 million dollars. Available CRFL funds are \$3.5 million. NCMRC will meet in December to approve projects for funding.
- American Shad and Hickory Shad – NCMRC is considering a moratorium on American shad and hickory shad recreational and commercial harvest in inland fishing waters and a reduction in hickory shad daily creel limit from 10 fish to 8. Staff used stock assessment and creel data to assess potential creel reduction options and the associated reductions in harvest. No action is recommended.
- Roanoke River Striped Bass Stock Assessment – Thomas presented information about poor and missing year classes of striped bass (2003,2004, 2009, and 2013) on the Roanoke River. Decline in recruitment is related to high river flow events during the spawning season. Staff is working with NC DMF to update the stock assessment model and estimate spawning stock biomass. Initial results indicate that the total allowable catch is too high. Management action to lower the harvest will be required.

Christian Waters, *Fisheries Management Coordinator*, summarized proposed changes to fishing rules for 2014-2015 recommended by staff for public notice and presentation at district public hearings.

Action: The Fisheries Committee unanimously recommended taking Exhibit I-1 to the full Commission with a recommendation to adopt.

Kyle Briggs, *Fisheries Management Coordinator*, updated the committee on hatchery renovation projects:

- Watha State Fish Hatchery – replacing three residences
- McKinney Lake State Fish Hatchery – replacing 19 harvest kettles and 14 water inlet boxes
- Table Rock State Fish Hatchery – Construction new 4000 square foot metal hatchery building to increase capacity. Also repairing dam apron washed out from flooding
- Marion State Fish Hatchery – replacing old hatchery building and depot with a new 10,000 square foot building
- Armstrong State Fish Hatchery – replacing 15 existing inefficient 50-year old raceways with 20 new serial reuse raceways and recirculation system
- Bobby N. Setzer State Fish Hatchery – installing wire grid to curtail great blue heron predation on fish. Also repairing leak in primary headbox at “A-section.”

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.