N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Marine Fisheries Commission to Meet in Raleigh

MOREHEAD CITY – The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission will meet Aug. 22-24 at the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton Raleigh-Brownstone-University, 1707 Hillsborough St., Raleigh.

The meeting is open to the public.

The commission will hear a presentation on a draft revision to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan and will be asked to send the draft revision out for public comments.

The commission also will discuss potential management options to reduce sea turtle and Atlantic sturgeon interactions in the estuarine gill net fishery. Atlantic sturgeon was listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act on April 6.

Other agenda items include discussion of a draft amendment to the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan that updates the document so that it is in line with current regulations under a Sea Turtle Lawsuit Settlement Agreement. The commission plans to also discuss a proposed amendment to the Oyster Fishery Management Plan to create seed oyster management areas at Possum Bay and Swan Point in the mouth of the New River.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Aug. 22, 9 a.m. Aug. 23 and 8:30 a.m. Aug. 24.

The commission will take public comments on any fisheries issue at 6 p.m. Aug. 22 and 9 a.m. Aug. 23. Additionally, the commission will accept comments relative to whether the state's fisheries management agencies might be reorganized to provide more efficient, productive and enjoyable uses of the state's fisheries resources.

The chairman will allow each speaker to talk for five minutes during the Aug. 22 session and three minutes during the Aug. 23 session. Due to time constraints, those making comments will be asked to speak only once, either at the Aug. 22 or Aug. 23 sessions. Individuals will not be allowed to speak during both public comment periods.

A meeting agenda is attached. A full briefing book can be found on the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries website at: http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/mfc-agendas-briefingbooks-presentations.

For more information, contact Marine Fisheries Commission Liaison Nancy Fish at 252-808-8021 or Nancy.Fish@ncdenr.gov.

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