

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, October 6, 2023
3rd Floor Admin Conference Room/Virtual

MAC Members Present: D. Swygert, J. Massey(virtual), C. Woods(virtual), J.R. McCroskey, B. Stevenson, P. Keener

MAC Members Absent: M.P. Adams, T. Clark, J. Cribb

DNR Staff Present: Keppler, Porter, Dyar, Ballenger, Binz, Bobertz, Darden, Watson, PKS, Dukes, Brunson, Broach, A. Brown, Floyd, McDonough, Milan, Ingle

Guests: Chaplain Jeff Shealy, Scott Whittaker, CCA

1. Call Meeting to Order – Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

2. Housekeeping – J. Binz:

Julie reviewed the processes in place for the Virtual Meeting.

3. Invocation – Pastor Jeff Shealy:

Pastor Shealy led the Invocation for the meeting.

4. Pledge of Allegiance:

Blake Stevenson led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Public Comment – Chairman Swygert:

There were no public comments for this meeting.

6. Approval of Minutes: Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes (July 2023). J.R. McCroskey made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. P. Keener 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Deputy Director Comments – B. Keppler:

Deputy Director Keppler's comments included the following points:

- Update on Hurricane Idalia impacts at MRD (minimal)
- Informed the Committee on upcoming Blue Crab Public Meetings
- Introduced the Committee to Chief of Staff Shannon Bobertz and Chief Legal Counsel Susan Porter

8. Reports:

- Legal Counsel Susan Porter presented the Committee with SCDNR Board Governance and FOIA policies.
- OFM Director Ben Dyar and Dr. Joey Ballenger gave a report on the status of Southern Flounder based on information from the commercial and recreation fishery and data from the agency's monitoring programs. After discussion regarding what other regional states are doing to address the decline in the Southern Flounder population The Committee made a motion that the Marine Advisory Committee support staff's recommendation that

the 5 fish per person/10 fish per boat catch limit remain in place rather than reverting to the previous limit of 10 fish per person/20 fish per boat on June 30th 2024.

9. Date, Place & Time of Next Meeting – Chairman Swygert:

10. The next scheduled meeting of the Marine Advisory Committee is Friday, January 12th.

11. Adjourn – Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert adjourned the meeting at 11:20 am.