

North Carolina Coastal Counties Fisheries Coalition Minutes

Tuesday, August 5, 2025 | 1 p.m.
Morehead City, North Carolina



Members Present: Robert L. “Bob” Woodard (Dare), Bobby Outten (Dare), Chris Chadwick (Carteret), Sharron Griffin (Carteret), Candy Bohmert (Pamlico), Daniel Brinn (Hyde), Tommy Everett (Tyrrell), Frankie Waters (Beaufort), Tim Corprew (Perquimans), Tony Padgett (Onslow), Denny Bucher (Craven), Janet Rose (Currituck), John Spruill (Washington), Bob Kirby (Chowan), Randy Krainiak (Camden), Lloyd Griffin (Pasquotank) Ka”Wania “KP” Parker (Hertford County)

Members Absent: J. Martin Cooke (Brunswick)

Dare County Chairman, Bob Woodard, called the meeting to order at 1:02 P.M.

ITEM 1 – INVOCATION

Dare County Commissioner Carson Creef led the meeting in an invocation.

ITEM 2 – PLEDGE

Carteret County Chairman, Chris Chadwick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3 – WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS – DARE COUNTY CHAIRMAN BOB WOODARD

Woodard thanked Carteret County for hosting the meeting and expressed appreciation to all appointees and attendees for their participation. He outlined the purpose of forming the Coalition and emphasized the urgency in ensuring that legislation and regulatory agencies recognize the importance of protecting the oldest industry of mankind. He stated that the Coalition aims to unite leaders from coastal counties to create a collective voice. Woodard called upon several individuals who would have been impacted by HB442, including Monica Smith from Miss Gina’s Fresh Shrimp, Kathryn Chadwick from Wild Will’s Revenge, Bubba Widley, a shrimp boat captain, and then he shared a written statement from Clayton Daniels, a fifth-generation commercial fisherman. He acknowledged the senators and representatives present and noted that during their time in Raleigh in June, Senator Hanig introduced five amendments that were not considered, Representative Goodwin held a two-hour press conference, and Representative Kidwell engaged with many constituents throughout the day. He remarked on the support from these individuals and expressed gratitude.

ITEM 4 – INTRODUCTIONS

All Coalition appointees and support staff members present introduced themselves: Chris Chadwick, Chairman of Carteret County; Candy Bohmert, Commissioner of Pamlico County; Daniel Brinn, staff member from Hyde County; Tommy Everett, Chairman of Tyrrell County; Frankie Waters, Chairman of Beaufort County; Tim Corprew, Commissioner of Perquimans; Tony Padgett, Commissioner of Onslow County; Denny Bucher, Chairman of Craven County; Janet Rose, Commissioner of Currituck County; John Spruill, Vice-Chair of Washington County; Bob Kirby, Chairman of Chowan County; Randy Krainiak, Commissioner of Camden County; Lloyd Griffin, Chairman of Pasquotank County; Bob Woodard, Chairman of Dare County; Bobby Outten, Manager/Attorney for Dare County; Sharron Griffin, Manager/Attorney for

Carteret County.

Woodard provided insights from a letter by Glenn Skinner, Executive Director of the NC Fisheries Association, dated March 2025. The letter emphasized that North Carolina has the most restrictive fisheries management policies in the nation and advocated for collaboration that incorporates scientific and local knowledge, stressing the need for a better balance that does not compromise the communities dependent on these resources.

ITEM 5 – MISSION STATEMENT

Woodard presented a draft mission statement which is as follows: “The North Carolina Coastal Counties Fisheries Coalition supports our state's commercial fishermen and fishing communities in an effort to protect their livelihoods, preserve coastal heritage, and safeguard the economic vitality of our working waterfronts. Together, we strive to ensure the continued harvest of high-quality North Carolina seafood—feeding families, strengthening communities, and ensuring North Carolina Catch remains an option for consumers to enjoy throughout our state and beyond.”

Bohmert suggested changing “Together, we strive” to “Together, we work,” and Rose recommended changing “remains an option” to “remains a priority.” The Coalition reached a consensus to proceed with the mission statement incorporating these changes.

ITEM 6 – ORGANIZATION

Woodard requested the Coalition's feedback on the structure and action plan, which included the following topics for discussion:

- The determination of whether the Coalition would be considered a public body, which would necessitate adherence to the same regulations as a standard Board of Commissioners Meeting (this is currently how it is organized).
- If the Coalition wanted to proceed with a less formal approach, members would not be appointed by the Board of Commissioners.
- The possibility of establishing a formal non-profit organization.

Bohmert expressed her support for the Coalition being established as a public body. Woodard indicated a desire for maximum transparency. Corprew raised concerns regarding costs and attorney fees, to which Woodard responded that Outten (Dare County) would serve as the attorney. Rose and Chadwick also supported the idea of a public body. There was a consensus to proceed with the public body designation. Additionally, they discussed meeting times, forming a schedule, and selecting a location.

Outten summarized the discussions and provided an overview stating that the Fisheries Coalition will function as a public body, with a meeting planned prior to the legislative session, followed by quarterly meetings. For now, meetings will be held in-person in Carteret County and the proposed mission statement will serve as the mission statement moving forward, incorporating the two suggested amendments.

- Bob Woodard volunteered to serve as Chairman. The Coalition formed a consensus selecting Bob Woodard as Chairman of the Coalition.

“How will these decisions impact North Carolina’s commercial fishing industry?”

ITEM 7- MEMBER COMMENTS

Griffin expressed his awareness that the group is discussing commercial fishing, but he inquired about the definition of commercial fishing and the goals behind the discussion. He noted the significant focus on the shrimp industry while acknowledging the presence of other industries, such as pound netters and gill netters, that are facing challenges. Furthermore, discussions included the process of ensuring the fisheries coalition's initiatives reach legislators, emphasizing the need for alignment with the NC Fisheries Association, or the possibility of including them in the Coalition. It was stated that the coalition was envisioned to unite affected counties and governmental entities to discuss and fight for the fishing industry. Entities like the NC Fisheries Association would continue to provide resources and information, while the coalition would serve as a unified voice for the political aspects.

ITEM 8 – LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES COMMENTS

Senator Hanig, Representative Goodwin, Carson Smith, Jane Cope (Leg Assistant to Rep. Celeste Cairns), Senator Brinson, Senator Sanderson, and Representative Keith Kidwell all expressed their support for the Coalition. They shared stories about fishing and their efforts advocating for commercial fishing, and expressed that they look forward to the achievements of the Coalition.

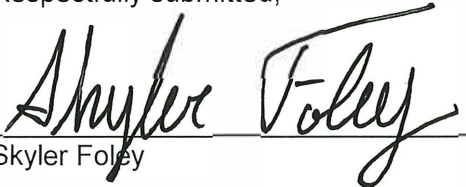
9 – NEXT STEPS

Woodard finalized that the next meeting would take place on September 16, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in Carteret County and asked the Coalition and to start thinking about the goals and long-term plan for this coalition and to email him ideas for the next meeting.

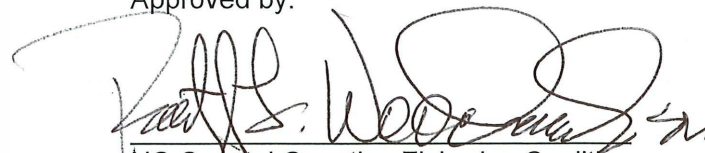
Adjourn

At 3:19 p.m., the NC Coastal Counties Fisheries Coalition adjourned until 1:00 p.m. on September 16th, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,


Skyler Foley

Approved by:


Ralfs Woodard Sr.
NC Coastal Counties Fisheries Coalition

**“How will these decisions impact North Carolina’s
commercial fishing industry?”**