

Release: Immediate

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Date: Dec. 23, 2011

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NC Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee to Meet

MOREHEAD CITY – The N.C. Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries will meet Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office, 943 Washington Square Mall, Washington. The meeting agenda is as follows:

- Call to Order

- Modifications to Agenda

- Approval of previous Oct. 3 Meeting Minutes - **Action**

- Public Comment

- Review of Public Meeting comments and standing AC recommendations on draft BCFMP Issues

- Finalize BC Advisory Committee recommendations on draft BCFMP Issues

- Other Business

- Adjourn

For more information, contact division biologist Lynn Henry at 252-264-3911, 800-405-7774 or Lynn.Henry@ncdenr.gov, or call the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission office at 252-808-8022.

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is charged with the preparation and writing of proposed fishery management plans (FMP), for adoption by the Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC). To assist the DMF in the development of FMPs, the chair of the MFC appoints a fishery management plan advisory committee (AC) that is composed of commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, scientists, and others, all with expertise in the fishery for which the FMP is being developed. The following are the specific roles of appointed advisers in assisting the DMF in the development of FMPs:

- *Assist DMF staff in identifying and evaluating management issues and options to be addressed in the FMP*
- *Evaluate the impacts of management options on the resource and user groups*
- *Review and provide comments on all sections of the draft FMP for completeness and accuracy*
- *Assist the DMF in informing the public on the issues contained in the FMP*
- *Attend public meetings held in advisers' regional area*
- *Solicit comments from peers and bring comments back to the AC*