



**Fisheries Committee  
Meeting Summary May 20, 2015  
Commission Room, Raleigh NC**

Fisheries Committee Chairman Wes Seegars called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**Attendees**

**Committee Members**

Wes Seegars – Chair  
Mark Craig  
Neal Hanks

Joe Barker  
Tommy Fonville

**Commissioners**

David Hoyle, Jr.  
Joe Budd

Garry Spence  
John Litton Clark

**Staff**

Gordon Myers  
Betsy Haywood  
Bob Curry  
Erik Christofferson

Mallory Martin  
Carolina Medina  
David Cobb  
Ashton Godwin

**Guests**

Fred Harris – NCWF

Ned Jones – NC Trout Unlimited

***Mountain Heritage Trout Water Assessment Update***

The Committee received an update on the ongoing Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Angler Survey and Community Interviews. Staff is completing data collection and analysis and a summary presentation is planned for the July committee meeting.

***Bryson City Request***

The Committee received information on a request from Bryson City to be recognized as a Mountain Heritage Trout City and to have a 2.2 mile section of the Tuckasegee River designated as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. The Commission approved a rule change in March to designate the section as Delayed Harvest Trout Waters. The request will be brought back to the Committee in July for consideration.

### ***Roanoke River Striped Bass 2015 harvest season update***

The Striped Bass harvest season in the Roanoke River Management Area (RRMA) was extended from April 30 (the scheduled closing) through May 3. The total allowable landings for the RRMA in 2015 were 68,750 pounds. As of April 30, approximately 17,000 pounds remained available for harvest, and during the season extension anglers harvested approximately 9,000 additional pounds.

Angler expenditure data is being collected during the creel survey in the RRMA. Kerry Linehan is collaborating with NC Division of Marine Fisheries staff to estimate the economic impact from March through May. Results will be available in late summer/early fall.

### ***Additional Topics of Interest/Discussion***

The Committee received an update on recent trout mortality at the Armstrong State Fish Hatchery. Renovations of the lower raceways are near completion and some trout have already been relocated. On April 4, three individuals raised the gate at the intake structure which diverted water away from the lower raceways. As a result, 168,000 trout were killed, a combination of fish for 2015 and 2016 stockings. Staff developed a plan for meeting 2015 stocking requests and will re-evaluate in early June.

Director Gordon Myers indicated that the agency's internal auditor will be looking at processes and risks including vulnerabilities of the fisheries production program.

Chairman Seegars adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.