

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, February 16, 2025.

Fisheries commission meets in Dare County this week

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission meets in person February 19 through 21 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 5353 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Kitty Hawk. The meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube.

The meeting begins at 6 o'clock, Wednesday evening, February 19 and at 9 in the morning Thursday, February 20; and on Friday, Feb. 21. The commission will hold public comment sessions at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, and at 9 on Thursday morning, February 20. Prior to the meeting, at 4 o'clock, Wednesday, February 19, NOAA Fisheries will give a presentation on the Marine Recreational Information Program and hold a question-and-answer session with the commissioners and Division of Marine Fisheries staff.

Agenda items for this meeting include:

Approval of the draft Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4 for public and advisory committee review;

- Final adoption of the Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1;
- Review of public comment and selection of preferred management options for the Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5 and Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3;
- Final adoption of rules on Simplifying pot marking requirements; False Albacore Management, Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact
- An update on the Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3 Adaptive Management.

Those who wish to speak may sign up at the hotel prior to the public comment period in which they wish to speak. Bring 12 copies of handouts.

The YouTube link will be posted on the Marine Fisheries Commission webpage. After the meeting, a recording will be posted online.

Beach Food Pantry opens a satellite food pantry in Rodanthe

Beach Food Pantry, a nonprofit dedicated to addressing food insecurity in Dare County, recently announced the grand opening of its new satellite food pantry location in Rodanthe.

“This new location will expand the reach of vital food assistance services to underserved families and individuals on Hatteras Island,” stated the announcement.

Located on the grounds of Fair Haven United Methodist Church at 24240 Seabreeze Drive, the food pantry officially opened January 13, 2025.

Initially, the pantry will schedule services on Mondays and Thursdays, providing access to nutritious food and essential resources to those in need. There is potential for additional service days or times based on community feedback.

The food pantry will provide a variety of items, including fresh produce, pantry staples, and frozen goods, as well as information about other local resources.

The expansion has been in the works for more than a year.

To be eligible, you must live or work in Dare County and complete an online application for assistance in advance. For individuals without access to the internet, pantry team members are available to assist.

The mission of the Beach Food Pantry is Fueling Hope. Ending Hunger. The pantry partners with donors and community to provide access to nutritional food, ensuring that no one worries about where their next meal will come from. Since 1989, the organization has served Dare County with programs that reach thousands of individuals and families each year. For more information about the Rodanthe satellite location or how to get involved, contact Beach Food Pantry at (252) 261-2756 or visit Beach Food Pantry dot org.

FDA Advises Restaurants and Retailers Not to Serve or Sell and Consumers Not to Eat Certain Oysters from Louisiana Harvest Area 3, Potentially Contaminated with Norovirus

On February 11, 2025, the Food and Drug Administration expanded this Safety Alert after state investigators determined the recalled oysters were distributed to the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

The FDA is advising restaurants and food retailers not to serve or sell, and to dispose of, and consumers not to eat, oysters harvested from Louisiana Area 3 between January 10 and February 4, 2025, because they may be contaminated with norovirus.

New leadership at Wildlife Resources

Christian Waters is now serving as the Wildlife Resources Commission chief deputy director. For the last nine years, Waters has served as the agency's chief of its Inland Fisheries Division. As Chief Deputy Director, Waters will oversee the agency's day-to-day operations and lead the agency's Law Enforcement, Wildlife Management, Inland Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Divisions and Genetics Program. Waters transitioned to his new role February 10.

He started his career with the agency in 1998. A native of New Bern, Waters, 51, resides in Smithfield with his wife, Susan, and their daughter, Cooper.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is the state agency dedicated to the conservation and management of fish and wildlife, and the regulation of inland fishing, hunting, trapping and boating regulations.

Agency operations include maintaining more than two million acres of public lands for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation; operating six fish hatcheries for stocking public waters; maintaining nine shooting ranges; providing hundreds of free boating access areas and publicly accessible places to fish on more than 100 different bodies of water; and offering free hunter education and recreational boating safety courses.

Wildlife Resources to consider closing recreation harvest of spotted seatrout

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will consider closing the recreational harvest by hook-and-line of speckled trout in inland and joint fishing waters from May 1 through June 15, 2025. Enacting a temporary rule will help avoid public confusion given the Division of Marine Fisheries recent proclamation closing commercial and recreational spotted seatrout harvest through June 15, said the media release.

The state's Division of Marine Fisheries closed coastal and joint waters in North Carolina to both commercial and recreational spotted seatrout harvest effective Friday afternoon, January 24 due to widespread cold stun events.

NCBBA makes donations

The North Carolina Beach Buggy Association recently made several \$500 donations to Hatteras Island organizations. The association regularly donates and contributes to organizations that serve Hatteras Island communities.

The Hatteras Island Rescue Squad, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that provides rescue and emergency services on the southern Outer Banks, is one recipient.

The rescue squad, with 30 volunteer members, patrols the Hatteras Island beaches from Avon through Hatteras from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The squad also responds to water emergencies in Pamlico Sound.

Chicamacomico Banks Fire and Water Rescue is another recipient. The fire department is volunteer staffed. The department operates from stations in Rodanthe and Salvo. The water rescue team covers the village beaches of Rodanthe, Waves, and Salvo as well as Pea Island, and the beaches south of Salvo.”

The Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building is the site for NCBBA's Annual Meeting on Memorial Day Weekend each year and is often used for quarterly board meetings. It's also a great place for family recreation with a skateboard park, basketball court and playground.

The Buxton Volunteer Fire Department was a recipient of one of those \$500 checks. Accepting the donation were Chief Carroll Midgett Jr., Treasurer Jody Midgett, Captain Courtney Whitehead and Driver Jarvis Williams.

And Radio Hatteras thanks the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association for its contribution received this past week.

For more information on the NCBBA, including early details on the 2025 Red Drum Tournament in October, visit the organization's website at [ncbba dot org](http://ncbba.org), or its Facebook page.

The Outer Edge docuseries

Episodes 1-4 of The Outer Edge docuseries are now available on YouTube, featuring spotlights on commercial fishing, Outer Banks creators and musicians, and the region's boat building tradition.

The six-part series, produced locally by the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau, is part of the organization's "ongoing commitment to responsible travel and the vibrant local community it serves," according to a recent announcement about the series

The documentaries explore the heart and soul of the Outer Banks of North Carolina through the stories of OBX locals who pour their passions into photography, commercial fishing, boat building, crafting local products, analyzing weather patterns, and fueling the grassroots music scene.

The project has been in the works for more than a year, and 23 Dare County residents were interviewed and followed on camera during the endeavor, as they shared their passions for the Outer Banks, and their connections to the community. Three local residents also participated behind the camera, and assisted with production of the series.

Learn more at [Outerbanks dot org slash edge](https://outerbanks.org/edge)

Upcoming Events

Pop-up library in Rodanthe Thursday morning

The Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building will host a pop-up library event with staff from the Hatteras Library on Thursday morning, February 20, from 9 to 11:00.

During the event, a selection of library materials for all ages will be available for visitors to browse and borrow. Folks can also sign up for a library card, or put books on hold for the Hatteras Library's next visit.

Children's librarian Miss Tammy will also host an all-ages children's program from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. The event is open to all Hatteras Islanders, and the RWS Community Building is located at 23646 N.C. Highway 12 in Rodanthe.

For more information on the Hatteras Library, visit [dare nc dot gov slash departments slash libraries](https://dare.nc.gov/departments/libraries)

Waterfowl Festival set for February 22

The Hatteras Village Waterfowl Festival is scheduled for Saturday, February 22.

All events on Saturday, February 22, are free and open to the public, and include a wide variety of displays, workshops, vendors, and activities for attendees of all ages. The festival opens at 10 and runs to 5 in the afternoon.

Hawk Manor Falconry will make an exciting return to the main stage, and attendees will have an interactive experience with birds of prey, learn the history of falconry, and also enjoy flight demonstrations and a simulated hunt. These amazing birds and handlers wowed the crowd in the past, and the 2025 encore performance is not to be missed.

This year's festival also features some of previous years' favorite exhibitors and events that have been a fixture since the beginning. Look for the Cape Hatteras Secondary School Art Show and Competition, local decoy exhibits, historical tours, a Duck Call Competition, a guided painting workshop and bird walks.

Most of the festival's activities take place at the Hatteras Village Civic Center. More information about the event can be found on the Hatteras Waterfowl Festival facebook page or the event website at [hatteras on my mind dot com slash HVCA slash Waterfowl Festival](https://hatteras.onmymind.com/HVCA/WaterfowlFestival)

Fundraiser for Buxton Civic Association

On Saturday afternoon from 3 to 6, the Buxton Civic Association will host a Mid-Day Mardi Gras Celebration and Fundraiser at Café Pamlico, in the Inn on Pamlico Sound, located at 49684 NC 12 in Buxton. Live music, 50-50 raffle, and fun all for a \$10 cover charge. Be there!

RWS Civic Association Hosts Read Across America Day Celebration

On Saturday morning, March 1, the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Civic Association will host its annual celebration of reading from 10 to 11:30 at the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building.

Promoting literacy across every age and interest, the event highlights reading as fun and important to an engaged community.

While earlier celebrations focused on younger children with a “Dr. Seuss Birthday” party theme, the event has grown to include readers of all ages.

Once again, community members are invited to bring books to swap. Book lovers often have “too many” for their shelves, so pay it forward and share a favorite read.

Board member and long-time organizer April Contestable notes “All books left after the event will help to fill our Little Libraries in the Tri-villages.”

Activities include Book Swap for all ages, a Pop-Up Library, courtesy of Michelle Lord, Hatteras Library Branch Manager; snacks and activities; gift certificate door prizes from Buxton Village Books.

The association invites the entire island community to join the celebration.

The Community Building is located at 23646 NC Hwy 12 in Rodanthe. Information is available at [rws civic association dot org](http://rws.civic.association.org) or the group’s Facebook page.

Thanks for listening to the Weekly news. Now, be safe. This is Radio Hatteras.