

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

# Division of Marine Fisheries



**NER Appropriations Subcommittee**  
**April 10, 2013**



**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION**  
A Staff Agency of the North Carolina General Assembly

# Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF)

## Mission:

Dedicated to ensuring sustainable marine and estuarine fisheries and habitats for the benefit and health of the people of North Carolina.



# DMF Fast Facts

- 4,000 miles of shoreline
- 2.5 mil acres of marine and estuarine waters
- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest estuary on East Coast
- 39 important commercial and recreational species
- 3,173 active commercial fishermen
  - Ranks 7<sup>th</sup> among East Coast in pounds of fish landed commercially
- 1.5 million recreational fishermen
  - Ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> among East Coast in number of fish landed recreationally

# DMF Organization

- 275 Employees
- FY2012-13 Budget = \$ 22.28 million
- Locations:
  - Headquarters: Morehead City
  - 4 District Offices: Elizabeth City, Washington, Morehead City, Wilmington
  - Field Offices: Manteo and Nags Head
- 7 Program Sections

# DMF Program Sections

- Fisheries Management
  - Stock assessment
  - Fisheries Management Plans
  - Fisheries & gear research
  - Resource monitoring
- Resource Enhancement
  - Shellfish Rehabilitation Program including shell recycling and oyster sanctuaries, Shellfish Mapping, Shellfish Lease Program, Shellfish Disease Program; Artificial Reef Program





# DMF Program Sections

- Habitat Protection
  - Coastal Habitat Protection Plans
  - Public Trust/Submerged Lands
  - Manage Permit Review
- Marine Patrol
  - Compliance monitoring of fisheries regulations by land, water, and air; protection of habitat, fisheries and public; and inspections
- Protected Resources
  - Observer Program; incidental take permits; take reduction teams

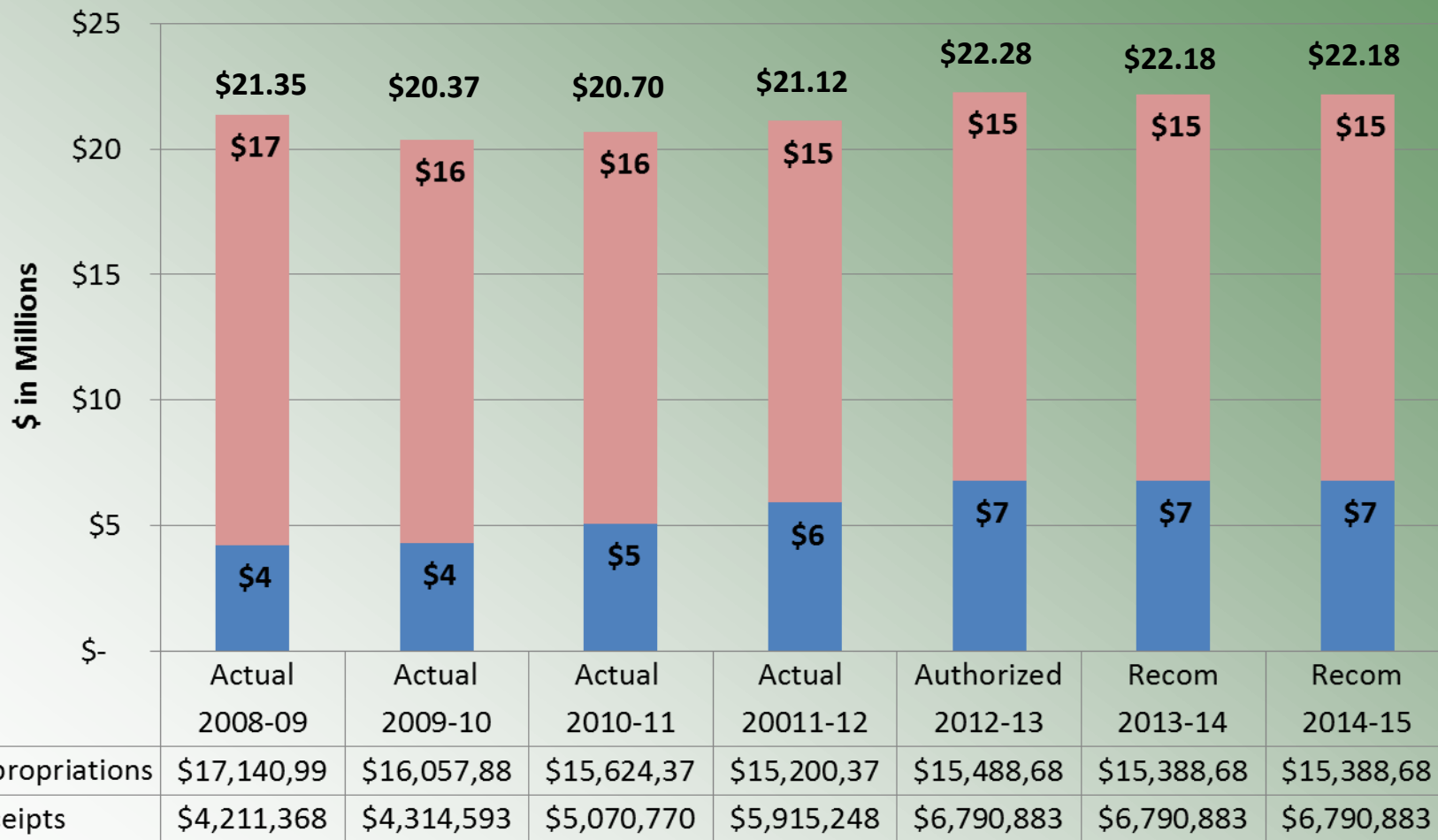


# DMF Program Sections

- Licenses & Statistics
  - Commercial & Recreational Fisheries Statistics
  - License and Permit Issuance Programs
  - Socioeconomic Program
- Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality (Transferred to DMF in 2011)
  - Shellfish Sanitation Program
  - Inspection Program
  - Recreational Water Quality Program



# DMF Expenditure History

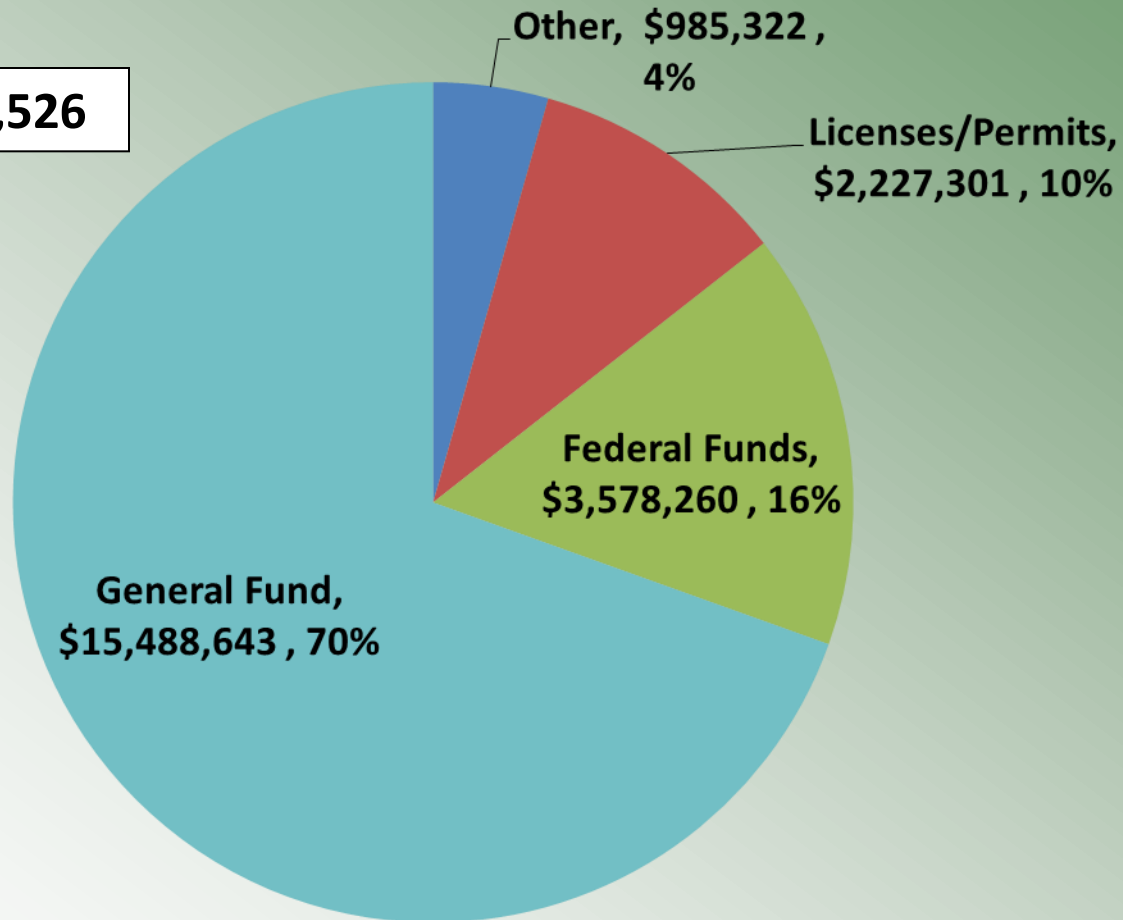


Note: Budget includes Shellfish Sanitation for all years to facilitate comparison.



# DMF Authorized FY 2012-13 Fund Sources

**Total = \$22,279,526**



# DMF Special Funds

- **Marine Resources Fund** (G.S. 113-175.1)
  - Purpose: To manage, protect, restore, develop, cultivate conserve, enhance the State's marine resource
  - Expenditure: Requires both MFC and WRC's written permission
  - Fund Source: Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses (CRFL)
  - Cash balance (03/31/13): \$10,441,395 (\$7,426,154 encumbered)
- **Marine Resources Endowment Fund** (G.S. 113-175.5)
  - Purpose: To manage, protect, restore, develop, cultivate conserve, enhance the State's marine resource
  - Expenditure: Requires both MFC and WRC's written permission
  - Fund Source: Lifetime CRFL
  - Cash balance (03/31/13): \$8,392,862 – can only spend interest
- **Advance License Sales** (G.S. 113-168.1(j))
  - Purpose: Support DMF operating budget, Marine Patrol and FIN
  - Fund Source: Commercial Licenses
  - Cash balance (03/31/13): \$3,729,696

# DMF Special Funds

- Marine Fisheries Conservation Fund (G.S. 143B-289.59)
  - Purpose: Marine and estuarine resource management including education about conservation
  - Source of Funds: Primarily gifts and donations, registration fees from governor's Cup Fishing Series
  - Cash balance (03/31/13): \$273,969
- Marine Fisheries Endowment Fund (G.S.143B-289.58)
  - Purpose: Same as Conservation Fund
  - Source of funds: gifts and donations, but none received
  - Cash balance (03/31/13): \$0 endowment exists in name only

# Recent General Assembly Budget Actions

## 2011 Session

- Reduced appropriations by \$3.2 million & 8 FTE
  - Ex: Eliminates state funds for Oyster Sanctuary program, reduced shellfish mapping & shellfish rehab, fund shift 6 FTE, closed Columbia office, reduced Fishery Resource Grant Program, reduced funds for River Herring research
- Transferred Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality - \$1.8 mill and 24.75 FTE

## 2012 Session

- Provided \$100,000 NR for Oyster Sanctuary Program

# FY 2012-13 Governor Recommended Continuation & Expansion Items

## Continuation

- Removed \$100,000 NR for Oyster Sanctuary Program

## Reductions

- Eliminates \$100,000 for Fishery Resource Grant Program
- Reduces operating by \$264,788 R

## Expansion

- Provides \$1.3 mil NR for At-Sea Observer Program in FY 2013-14 and recommends across the board fee increases in FY 2014-15 for the same purpose



# DMF Contacts & Questions

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