

***What is it and Who is responsible?***

- § 113-129 establishes definitions for Inland, Coastal, and Joint Fishing Waters.
- In accordance with § 113-129 and § 113-132, the Wildlife Resources Commission and Marine Fisheries Commission must jointly agree on the dividing line between Inland and Coastal Fishing Waters, and any designations of Joint Fishing Waters.

## ***Why is a new delineation required now?***

- The General Assembly amended North Carolina’s Administrative Procedure Act (APA) in 2013 to include a “Periodic Review and Expiration of Existing Rules.”
  - Affected agencies must review all of their active rules every 10 years.
  - Key requirements include:
    - Any rules designated as Necessary with Substantive Public Interest must be readopted using the permanent rulemaking process.
    - Failure to complete the review for any covered rules would lead to automatic expiration.
- Rules that delineate Coastal, Joint, and Inland Fishing Waters, were determined to be Necessary with Substantive Public Interest and therefore must be readopted through the permanent rulemaking process.
- Specifically, they must be readopted no later than June 30, 2022.

## ***Approach***

- The WRC and MFC are working closely together to accomplish this responsibility
- Joint Committee on Delineation of Fishing Waters comprised of three WRC and three MFC commissioners was established to help integrate the work of the two commissions
- Statutory and biological factors are key considerations.

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission  
**Joint Committee on Delineation of Fishing Waters**  
 DRAFT Timeline for Rules Adoption

