

WEEKLY UPDATE: 1/2/2015
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
Phone: (252) 745-0225 - www.ncfish.org
Jerry Schill, President: jerryschill@ncfish.org Cell: 252-361-3015
Lauren Morris, Membership/Operations Manager:
laurenmorris@ncfish.org Cell: 252-725-2468

SAFMC TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING/SCOPING MEETINGS AND Q&A WEBINAR FOR SNAPPER GROUPER AND MACKEREL AMENDMENTS:

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is requesting public input on proposed management measures affecting the fishery management plans for snapper grouper, and coastal migratory pelagics (king mackerel). The public is encouraged to provide written comment and participate in upcoming public hearings scheduled throughout the region between January 13 - February 4, 2015. For more information, see the [news release](#).

MAFMC TO HOLD HEARINGS ON DEEP SEA CORALS AMENDMENT:

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold six public hearings in January to gather public comments on the [Deep Sea Corals Amendment](#) to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The amendment considers measures to address the potential impacts of fishing gear on deep sea corals in the Mid-Atlantic. The hearings will be held January 12 - 20, 2015 (schedule below), and written comments will be accepted until January 28, 2015. For more information, see the [news release](#).

ANNUAL NCFA BOARD MEETING SET FOR JAN. 23 AT 12 P.M.:

The annual Board of Directors Meeting has been scheduled for Jan. 23 at 12 p.m. The board will meet at the Hampton Inn in Washington, N.C. This is the one meeting a year where ALL members, including half percent contributors, can vote on issues and give direction for the organization.

TRADEWINDS:

The latest issue of Tradewinds has been mailed to members. If you have not received your copy, please let Lauren know.

JERRY'S COMMENTS:

On Wednesday, January 14th, the General Assembly convenes for the "long session". We expect to see some fisheries activity in the form of legislation, but not yet sure what it will be. There are rumors of everything from a total net ban or restricting inshore trawling to changing the Fisheries Reform Act. At this point, it's all rumor, but we are prepared to address the issues with the legislators. We do not plan to wait on what others might want to do to us, but have been and will continue to have discussions on how the legislature can help commercial fishing families. Those discussions include legislators, of course, but also other allies and others who are objective and have legitimate concerns about how to fairly manage public trust resources for the good of all.

It is very important for those of you involved in any aspect of commercial fishing to stay informed. If you have a fish house or a business that supplies commercial fishermen, we ask that you print these Weekly Updates and post them where fishermen that may not have daily internet access can see them. You need to encourage those that DO have internet access to sign up to receive these updates.

In addition to the Weekly Updates, which are posted on our website and distributed broadly via e-mail, we also have a list that we use for action items that goes to a smaller list. You need to let us know if you want on that list as we will use it when we need you to contact your legislators, or if we need to make an effort to get a group to Raleigh during the session.

If it's better for us to send you information via fax, please let us know and we'll make that happen.

Finally, if you're a commercial fisherman or associated in any way with commercial fishing, and you're not a member, it's time to join! And if you are a fisherman and not participating in the half percent program, it's time to do it! Just give Lauren a call or drop her a note and she'll take care of it. Her contact info is listed at the top of this update.

God bless,
Jerry

MEETINGS:

If you are aware of ANY meetings that should be of interest to commercial fishing that is not on this list, please contact us so we can include it here.

Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. -

Oyster and Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee, DENR Regional Office, 943 Washington Square Mall, Washington, NC

Feb. 3-5 - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Winter Meeting, The Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria, VA

[MFC/DMF Meeting Schedule](#)

PROCLAMATIONS:

[RE: 2015 OYSTER RESTRICTIONS \(DARE/HYDE COUNTY CLOSURE\)](#)

[RE: 2015 OYSTER RESTRICTIONS - REVISED \(DARE/HYDE COUNTY CLOSURE\)](#)