

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 10/3/2014**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**  
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**FISHERMAN'S VILLAGE:** NCFA is part of a coalition of groups, headed by Carteret Catch that will host a Fishermen's Village on the Morehead City waterfront on Saturday, October 4th. A trawler will be docked at Jack's Waterfront Bar so the public can feel what "A day in the life of a commercial fisherman" is like. Food will be available to the general public while being educated.

**BLESSING OF THE FLEET** is Sunday, October 5th, 10:00am at the State Port in Morehead City. If you are a commercial fisherman and can participate, you should be there. This is a religious service and part of the North Carolina Seafood Festival.

**STATE FAIR:** As noted previously, the North Carolina State Fair is a 10 day event October 16-26. The NCFA Board discussed this at the last Board meeting and agreed to assist NC Catch with materials and volunteers to help with a booth for commercial fishing. Affiliates should make sure this is on your agendas when you meet and make arrangements to help for a day. NCFA will help with the setup on Tuesday, October 14th and help at the booth Thursday through Sunday. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lauren at the NCFA office. (Contact info above.)

**NCFA Board of Directors** will meet on Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm at the Hampton Inn in Washington. Lots on the agenda, including nominations for the seat on the Marine Fisheries Commission left vacant by the death of Paul Rose.

**AFFILIATE MEETINGS:**

**ALBEMARLE FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION:** For more info about AFA, call Terry Pratt: (252) 339-7431.

**PAMLICO COUNTY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION** will hold their next meeting on Thursday, October 16th. For more information call Wayne Dunbar: (252) 670-7467.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:** Please note the following as it's very important to have a very good representation from commercial fishermen at these meetings:

October 15th: Summer Flounder public hearing at the DENR office in Washington, NC.

October 15th: Smoothhound Shark public hearing at Dare County Admin Bldg.

**NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL FEDERATION:**

**2015 ABANDONED FISHING GEAR RECOVERY PROJECT:**

This project is intended to improve habitat and water quality conditions and support active

commercial watermen conditions throughout northeastern United States. The project will collect abandoned crab pots and other fishing gear from the Currituck Sound south to Hatteras Inlet, including portions of the Albemarle Sound and Alligator River. About 12 vessels will be chosen with a minimum of 3 working days guaranteed to those fishermen accepted at \$300/day to participating captains and mates at \$100/day.

Deadline for submission of applications is Friday, October 17, 2014.

Contact Ladd Bayliss: (252) 473-1607 or [laddb@nccoast.org](mailto:laddb@nccoast.org)

**OBSERVERS:** There continues to be a lot going on with the gillnet fisheries and observers and quite a few proclamations, so click on the link below to see the proclamations. To view proclamations; click here:

[PROCLAMATIONS](#)

**Jerry's comments:**

This coming weekend we have the N.C. Seafood Festival in Morehead City, with the Fisherman's Village and Blessing of the Fleet being the two key events that NCFCA will be involved with. In a couple of weeks we will assist NC Catch with a booth at the N.C. State Fair. There are lots of things going on which means lots that you can volunteer for.

Commercial fishing families continue to be affected by the Endangered Species Act with closures due to turtle interactions in the large mesh gillnet fishery. There are lots of opinions being shared by phone, text and internet. Some are based on rumor and some based on fact. We have been and will continue to work on separating the two before making public comments. Just be assured that we're working on this. For example, before I publicly state on the internet that the Division of Marine Fisheries bought a nice pontoon boat, I do a little research to make sure it's a fact. (It wasn't.) Or before I say that the turtles that caused a closure were caught by DMF researchers and not commercial fishermen, I'll find out if it's true. (It's not.)

These issues are contentious enough when using truth and facts. Posting and sharing false information not only causes harm to individuals unnecessarily, it also undermines our ability to effect change as we start losing the support of those who don't know what to believe. Our cause is just and facts are on our side when it comes to the protection of sea turtles or sturgeon. We need to be engaged, but armed with facts. Not fiction.

God bless,  
Jerry

**MEETINGS:**

NOTE: 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.

**Oct 3-5 North Carolina Seafood Festival; Morehead City**

**Oct 5 Blessing of the Fleet; State Port; Morehead City; 10:00am**

**Oct 6 NCFA Board of Directors meeting; Hampton Inn; Washington NC; 2:00pm**

**Oct 7 - 9 Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Philadelphia**

**Oct 8 NC MFC Southern Advisors; Wilmington; 6:00pm**

**Oct 9 NC MFC Northern Advisors; Washington; 6:00pm**

Oct 13 NC MFC Habitat & Water Quality Advisors; Washington; 1:30pm

Oct 14 NC MFC Finfish Advisors; Morehead City; 6:00pm

Oct 15 Hearing in Manteo for Smoothhound Shark; Dare Co. Admin Bldg; 5:00 - 8:00pm

Oct 15 Summer Flounder Public Hearing; DENR office; Washington NC; 6:00pm

Oct 16 NC MFC Shellfish/Crustacean Advisors; Washington NC; 6:00pm

Oct 16-26 North Carolina State Fair; NC Catch needs help for booth!

Oct 27 - 30 ASMFC Annual Meeting: Mystic, CT

#### MFC/DMF MEETING SCHEDULE

#### GILL NETS — ALBEMARLE SOUND AREA- MANAGEMENT UNIT A

#### TRAWLING, SPECIAL SECONDARY NURSERY AREA

#### 2014 OYSTER HAND HARVEST RESTRICTIONS

##### LARGE MESH GILLNETS: PERMITS AND OBSERVERS:

Beginning on Monday, September 1st, if you fish gillnets in internal waters, you need a permit. (Drift gillnets, strike, runaround or drop gillnets are exempt.) The permit wasn't the Division's idea, but came from commercial fishermen. It was thought that if one of the requirements for the federal ITP in the fishery is to have 7% of large mesh trips observed, then rather than have more restrictions, why not devise a permit to make sure we get enough coverage. Without the coverage, the feds can shut down the fishery, so a permit can keep that from happening. If a fisherman refuses to take an observer, he can lose his permit.

If you are fishing large mesh gillnets, don't wait to be called to take an observer. Call DMF and volunteer if you haven't taken an observer. Don't let it up to a few to take observers. If everyone does their part, the burden can be spread around a bit and you can do your part in keeping the fishery open.

One other point about fishing and turtles: If you have an interaction with a turtle while you're fishing and you don't have an observer, then call DMF and let them know. That's better for all of us. You won't get penalized for it and it's something that should be done.

#### POUND NETS:

Most fishermen check their pound nets daily for a number of reasons. One is the quality of the fish is better if fished frequently. NCFA encourages all pound net fishermen to check their nets daily, weather permitting. Fishermen should not be expected to risk their lives when checking their nets, but if the weather allows, we encourage you to check. It just makes sense, but most of you already know that.