

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 8/22/2014**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"  
Phone: (252) 745-0225 [www.ncfish.org](http://www.ncfish.org)  
Jerry Schill, President: [jerryschill@ncfish.org](mailto:jerryschill@ncfish.org)  
Cell: 252-361-3015

**SEISMIC TESTING OFF NORTH CAROLINA:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) has planned to do seismic testing off the coast of North Carolina, and here's the latest: The NC Division of Coastal Management, (DCM), is taking comments on the proposal, but only for another week. NCFa submitted comments yesterday, ending with "Due to all the uncertainty about the project and how it would affect many aspects of our coastal life including but not limited to commercial and recreational fishing, the North Carolina Fisheries Association urges you to reject the NSF's consistency determination for this project."

We encourage others to make comments, especially our affiliate groups. Here is a link to an article about it and who to send comments to:

<http://www.jdnews.com/news/local/public-comments-sought-for-seismic-testing-1.360189>

Send comments to:

Daniel M. Govoni, Asst. Major Permits Coordinator  
NC Division of Coastal Management  
(252) 247-3330 fax  
[daniel.govoni@ncdenr.gov](mailto:daniel.govoni@ncdenr.gov)

**AFFILIATE NEWS:**

**PAMLICO COUNTY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION:** Their next meeting will be scheduled soon, now that the General Assembly is not in session.

**ALBEMARLE FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION** next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at Leon Nixon's Catering facility in Edenton. For more info call Terry Pratt:

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION** has not scheduled their August meeting yet.

**MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:**

Congratulations to the following, who were appointed by Governor McCrory to the MFC this week:

Joe Shute, reappointed in a recreational seat;  
Mike Wicker, appointed to the scientist seat, replacing Allyn Powell;  
Sammy Corbett, appointed to the seafood dealer's seat, replacing Joe Smith.

Thanks are also extended to Joe Smith and Allyn Powell for their service on the Commission!

**MFC ACTIONS:**

The Marine Fisheries Commission met this week in Raleigh and here is one of the highlights:

Red Drum will reopen as a commercial bycatch fishery on September 1<sup>st</sup>;  
Large mesh gillnets will be allowed in Areas A & C on September 1<sup>st</sup> as there are little/no turtle interactions;  
Other areas will open AFTER September 15<sup>th</sup>, after it's been observed that turtles have moved out of the areas;

Bycatch allowance of 7 red drum, with target species of at least 50% consisting of flounder, striped mullet, black drum, bluefish.

Other issues covered by the MFC meeting will be noted next week.

**Jerry's comments:**

Observers in the large mesh gillnet fishery: [Justin Creef](#) offered some very good advice earlier about the need to be proactive with the observer program. There were also comments made about the CCA.

The CCA is not the commercial fisherman's friend. Period. However, the observers in the large mesh gillnet fishery are a result of an ITP through the Endangered Species Act. The ESA was passed long before the CCA came into being. Keep focused.

Our litigation on sea turtles came about NOT because of recreational fishermen and NOT because of the CCA. It came about because the ESA is being enforced on only one user group when it comes to fishing and that's the commercial fishermen.

Our litigation offers the facts that commercial fishermen abide by the law when it comes to shrimp trawls, longliners and large mesh gillnets. If we make huge sacrifices to protect sea turtles by abiding by the law, shouldn't the other user groups?

In keeping with that argument that we obey the law, the ITP and the need for observers are part of that law. Obey it. Proudly.

Put the blinders on when it comes to NMFS, DMF, CCA or whoever else you may look for as the boogeyman. We're on the high road on this one.

Document, document, document! If you make a call to DMF about observers, don't just post on here, write it down. Date, time, and who you talked to. If the observer shows up late or doesn't show up at all, write it down. Then send it to me.

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.

Sept 15 – 19 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

[MFC/DMF Meeting Schedule](#)

[SNAPPER-GROUPER COMPLEX-COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES](#)

[CRAB TRAWLING AND TAKING SHRIMP WITH NETS](#)