

WEEKLY UPDATE: 11/14/2014
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

IMPORTANT MEETING FOR FISHERMEN:

NC Watermen United and the Fisheries Association will host a meeting prior to the upcoming Marine Fisheries Commission meeting. It is important for all commercial fishermen that are able to attend, voice their concerns, and learn more about upcoming issues at the commission and legislative levels!

November 19 from 4-6 p.m.
The Pier House at the Hilton Garden Inn
5353 N. Virginia Dare Trail, Kitty Hawk

Upcoming Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting:

The commission will meet Nov. 19-21 at the Hilton Garden Inn to:

- Develop its 2015 initiatives
- Vote on nominating candidates for the Mid- and South Atlantic fishery management councils
- Vote on funding for shrimp trawl bycatch research and industry workgroup
- Vote on the charge of the Sea Turtle Advisory Committee
- Select its preferred management options for Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1
- Vote on the strategic habitat area Region 3 nominations
- Receive presentations on the American Shad Sustainable Fishery Plan and estuarine striped bass adaptive management measures

[View the agenda and briefing materials.](#)

Commercial Harvest of Gag in South Atlantic Waters Will Close on Nov. 21

Commercial harvest of gag in South Atlantic waters will close at 12:01 a.m. (local time) November 21, 2014. See the [news release](#) for details.

JERRY'S COMMENTS:

Texas shrimper, Ronnie Galloway, Jr., lost his life this past August on his vessel, the "Mr. Anthony". Read [this story](#) about his daughter, Sabrina, as she recounts her life as the daughter of a fisherman.

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.

Nov. 18 - Albemarle Fishermen's Association, Leon Nixon Catering, Edenton, 6 p.m.

Nov. 19 - Pamlico Fishermen's Association, The County Opry, Grantsboro, 7 p.m.

Nov. 19-21 - Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting - Kitty Hawk

Dec. 8 - Oyster and Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting, Washington, 6 p.m.

MFC/DMF Meeting Schedule

PROCLAMATIONS:

No proclamations issued this week.

LARGE MESH GILL NETS PERMITS AND OBSERVERS:

Beginning on Monday, September 1, if you fish gill nets in internal waters, you need a permit. (Drift gill nets, strike, runaround or drop gill nets 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 percent 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 gill nets, 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.