

WEEKLY UPDATE: 10/24/2014
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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OPENINGS AND CLOSING IN THE LARGE MESH GILL NET

FISHERY: Eastern Pamlico Sound and northern Core Sound will close to anchored large-mesh gill net Sunday afternoon. A few hours later, a portion of the Albemarle Sound and most of the Currituck Sound will reopen to this gear. See the [news release](#) for more information.

COASTAL HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY CONCERNS SURVEY:

The purpose of this survey is to gather public input on coastal habitat and water quality concerns. The information will provide direction for development of the 2015 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan. Please complete the survey based on your opinion of habitats in coastal North Carolina. There are no wrong answers. These answers will remain confidential and will only be used when combined with the entire set of survey responses. Thanks for your help and interest in protecting coastal fish habitat.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L2BHPPF8>

FOR-HIRE LOGBOOK STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS: The Division of Marine Fisheries will hold a series of stakeholder meetings to provide information on a proposed for-hire logbook reporting requirement. For meeting dates and times see the [news release](#).

JERRY'S COMMENTS:

As noted in a message we sent out yesterday, Sammy Corbett was named Chairman of the Marine Fisheries Commission by Governor McCrory. Sammy replaced Joe Smith on the MFC in August. The commercial fisherman's seat that was held by Paul Rose is still vacant, but the Governor's office has assured us that it will be filled before the next MFC meeting in November. We wish Sammy the best with this challenging position!

This weekend brings the annual State Fair in Raleigh to a close. I was there for the Opening Ceremony a week ago and helped out at the NC Catch booth for 2 days. It's very tiring but also enjoyable to engage the public and talk about commercial fishing while giving away samples of North Carolina shrimp or scallops. And it was especially refreshing to do so away from the contentious regulatory atmosphere we are so accustomed to.

Two weeks from today I'll be busy looking at the election results to figure out how many new legislators have been elected. Election day is only 11 days from today and early voting has already begun. I'm a believer that in our type of government, (a republic), we tend to get what we deserve. And what we deserve is determined by what we do or don't do. And most of us don't vote. Either we're not registered or we are registered but don't take the time to vote on election day. Some of the very same people that will go to a gamefish hearing in Raleigh or a trawling hearing in New Bern, taking all day in the process, will not take a few minutes to cast a ballot. The world is run by those who show up. So do it.

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.

Oct. 16-26 - NC State Fair; NC Catch needs help for the booth!

Oct. 23 - MFC Special Meeting - DENR Office, Washington, 10:30 a.m.

Oct. 27-30 - ASMFC Annual Meeting: Mystic, CT

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

MFC/DMF MEETING SCHEDULE

PROCLAMATIONS:

SCUP - COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS - ATLANTIC OCEAN-NORTH OF

CAPE HATTERAS

SPINY DOGFISH-COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS

SPINY DOGFISH - DEALER PERMIT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

GILL NETS - ALBEMARLE SOUND AREA- MANAGEMENT UNIT A

RULE SUSPENSION-GILL NET RESTRICTIONS: INTERNAL COASTAL WATERS

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.