

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 9/19/2014**  
**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

**AFFILIATE MEETINGS:**

**ALBEMARLE FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION** will meet on Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm at Leon Nixon's Catering in Edenton. Call Terry Pratt for more info: (252) 339-7431.

**PAMLICO COUNTY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION** held another organizational meeting last evening. Their next meeting will be on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. 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:

September 29<sup>th</sup>: Striped Bass public hearing at the Dare County Government Complex in Manteo

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

**STATE FAIR:** As noted last week, the North Carolina State Fair is a 10 day event October 16-26. The NCFA Board discussed this at last Monday's Board meeting and agreed to assist NC Catch with materials and volunteers to help with an 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 14<sup>th</sup> and help at the booth Thursday through Sunday.

**BLESSING OF THE FLEET** is Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 that is scheduled for October 3-5. There will also be a commercial fishing vessel on display for tours. More information on that later.

**FISHERMEN'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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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. More detailed information will be in next week's update.

**NC Rep. Chris Millis** from Hampstead is having a meeting with commercial fishermen next Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 4:00pm at Batson's Galley Restaurant in Surf City. It begins at 4:00pm and NCFA encourages fishermen to attend to get an update on this year's actions in the General Assembly and what to expect in next year's long session. NCFA's Jerry Schill will be there.

**REQUEST TO ELECTED OFFICIALS and SUPPORTERS:** As noted above, we have listed an event being held by NC House member Chris Millis as he called NCFA to let us know about this event. We would like to list other such gatherings but can only do so if we know about them, so please let us know in the coming weeks of any meetings that may be of interest to commercial fishing.

**Jerry's comments:**

HELP FOR NCFA: The Board took action to help with the workload of NCFA including administration, research and lobbying. The “official” announcements will be made next week!

OBSERVERS: As noted over the past several weeks, the observer coverage issue is getting better but according to DMF some fishermen are still not returning calls. As mentioned last week, we have recommended to DMF that they have fishermen call DMF to let them know when they’re going to fish their gillnets that comes under the ITP. DMF has a reluctance to do that for whatever reason. If I was a gillnet fisherman with a permit and was going fishing, I would call DMF to let them know I’m going fishing. It would take this criticism of the problem with returned calls off the table. I would call DMF about my intent of going fishing with all the details and keep a record of the call. If most fishermen would do that, DMF would have all the info they needed and the criticism of fishermen not returning calls would go away.

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 23 Albemarle Fishermen’s Association; Leon Nixon’s Catering, Edenton; 6:30pm**  
**Sept 23 Rep. Chris Millis meeting with fishermen at Batson’s Galley Restaurant, Surf City, 4:00pm**  
Sept 29 [Striped Bass Hearing on Addendum IV; Dare County complex; 6:00pm](#)  
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 15 [Summer Flounder Public Hearing; DENR office; 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](#)

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

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

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### LARGE MESH GILLNETS: PERMITS AND OBSERVERS:

Beginning on Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

If you call DMF and volunteer rather than waiting around for them to call you, we'll put your name in a hat and the winner will have a nice dinner with Louis Daniel, courtesy of NCFA! (Louis doesn't know about this, so just testing to see if he reads these updates.)

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.