

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 9/21/2015**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**  
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**INTERESTED CANDIDATES FOR SAFMC SEAT EXPIRING IN 2016**

Members interested in serving in the obligatory seat for the South Atlantic Marine Fishery Commission, please let Lauren know. You can [email](#) or give her a call at 252-725-2468.

**NEW ANALYSIS COMPARES COSTS OF ELECTRONIC MONITORING AND AT-SEA OBSERVERS**

Earlier this year, NOAA Fisheries issued regional electronic technology implementation plans that lay out our vision for the implementation of this technology in U.S. fisheries. One key element missing from those plans and ongoing Council discussions regarding the use of electronic monitoring was cost information. To better inform the Council decision-making process with regard to fishery-dependent data collection, NMFS is issuing two reports comparing the projected costs of two different operational electronic monitoring programs with the costs of more traditional observer/at-sea monitoring programs, as well as an independent review of the groundfish electronic monitoring report. The costs in both reports are estimated for hypothetical programs and costs are based on agency spending and cost estimates provided by three electronic monitoring service providers in the fall of 2014. Access the reports below:

[Cost Comparison for Hypothetical Groundfish Sector](#)  
[Independent Review of the Groundfish Cost Comparison](#)  
[Cost Comparison for Hypothetical Herring/Mackerel Fishery](#)

**NMFS SEEKING COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CHANGES FOR DOLPHIN WAHOO AND SNAPPER-GROUPER**

NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on Amendment 7 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic and Amendment 33 to the FMP for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33). The Notice of Availability for public comment on this amendment published in the Federal Register on September 17, 2015 (80 FR 55819). Comments are due by November 16, 2015. The management measures in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 address dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species lawfully harvested by recreational fishers in The Bahamas and brought to the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ). For more information see the [news release](#).

**OBX VISIONS: FROM LOCAL WATERS TO YOUR PLATE**

At the kickoff event Friday for the annual Day At The Docks celebration in Hatteras, a dynamic panel of experts shared their personal seafood stories and answered questions about marketplace choices that sustain healthy waters and support local fishing communities. [View an excerpt of the discussion.](#)

**REGULATION AND RULE CHANGES:**

-[Snowy grouper and vermilion snapper commercial closure](#) effective Sept. 22

**DEADLINES:**

- Sept. 21 at 5 p.m. - [2016-2018 Atlantic Herring Research Set Aside](#) Applications
- Sept. 25 - MAFMC Cooperative Research Proposals
- Sept. 28 at 5 p.m. - MFC Kingfish and Interjurisdiction FMP Update Comments
- Oct. 2 - [MFC Proposed Rules Comments](#)
- Oct. 2 - MAFMC [Unmanaged Forage Species Scoping](#) Comments

**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.

**Sept. 22 at 9:30 a.m.** - [ASMFC/MAFMC Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee Webinar](#)

**Sept. 22 at 6 p.m.** - [MAFMC Spiny Dogfish Public Information Webinar](#)

**Sept. 23 at 9 a.m.** - [Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committee Meeting via Webinar](#)

**Sept. 23 at 6 p.m.** - MFC Southern Regional Advisory Committee

**Sept. 24 at 6 p.m.** - MFC Northern Regional Advisory Committee

**Sept. 28-29** - [Southeast Data, Assessment and Review Steering Committee Meeting](#) via Webinar

**Oct. 5 at 2 p.m.** - NCFA Board of Directors Meeting, Washington Civic Center, 110 Gladden St., Washington

**Oct. 6-8** - MAFMC Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

[SNAPPER-GROUPER COMPLEX - COMMERCIAL PURPOSES \(VERMILION SNAPPER & SNOWY GROUPER\)](#)