

WEEKLY UPDATE: 6/6/2016
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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JEA ADVISORS MET LAST WEDNESDAY EVENING:

The JEA Advisory panel was set up by the General Assembly last year. The legislators charged DMF to appoint the panel to look at the pros and cons of a Joint Enforcement Agreement between our state's regulatory agency and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Then Acting DMF Director Jim Kelley appointed 10 to the panel. As per the legislation, those who wished to be on the panel had to hold a for-hire or a commercial fishing license.

The advisors met this past Wednesday in New Bern with Dee Lupton of the Division as the facilitator. There were 9 of the 10, or their proxies, who attended, and entered into a lively discussion. A motion was made for the group to recommend that the state NOT enter into a JEA. Panel member Brent Fulcher requested that they hear comments from the general public before they voted. Quite a few comments were heard, most of whom were opposed to JEA for various reasons. A large representation from the Coastal Carolina Taxpayers Association were in attendance and many of them also spoke in opposition to the JEA.

The advisory panel voted 6 – 1 with 2 abstentions to not recommend JEA. The Division will continue accepting public comments until July 1st, so if you have an opinion on the subject, you should get it to Dee Lupton at the Division before July 1st. The Division will then draft a report that will be sent to Secretary van der Vaart at DEQ, and then forwarded to the General Assembly. It's important to note that this goes to the General Assembly and NOT to the Marine Fisheries Commission.

JERRY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEWS:

NET BAN; HB-1122; LIMIT MARINE NET FISHING:

Nothing new to report. The bill remains in the House Rules Committee with the only sponsor being Rep. Billy Richardson.

BUDGET NOW IN CONFERENCE:

The Senate passed its version of the budget late last week, so now the Senate and House budget negotiators will be working to reconcile their differences.

FISH STUFF:

There are some fisheries issues in the budget. Some of it are good and some not so good. We'll be sharing more info on that later.

NCFA BOARD MET ON MONDAY:

The NCFA's Board of Directors met this past Monday, June 6th, at the Civic Center in Washington, NC. Special guests were DMF Director Braxton Davis, Senator Bill Cook, Rep. John Bell and Rep. Michael Speciale. Several of our Board members felt that this was the most positive meeting we've had in a long time, with a very

good dialogue between our guests and the Board members. Each one of the Board members introduced themselves with a little background. Most of the discussion centered around the contentious nature of fisheries in recent years, both at the regulatory and legislative levels, and possible solutions, given the “new day” attitude that many expect from all of us.

After the legislators departed, the Board took some action on a position statement for going forward in this “new day” of managing our fisheries for ALL public trust resource owners, which includes the consumers. We are in the process of putting those positions on paper, so if you would like a copy either drop us an email or give us a call and we’ll share when it’s ready.

Also attending the meeting was Deborah Long, a public relations professional, who gave a presentation on how to take our positive message forward to the decision makers and the public.

WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION:

[from David Bush](#)

But first, this from Jerry:

This notice has been in the Weekly Update several times. While David has received some interest from commercial fishermen, most of the interest is from the recreational side. What’s up with that? If you are involved in commercial fishing and want to effect change, don’t you think it might be worth your while to learn a little about the science/management side of things so you can more effectively understand the process? David is trying to use his education as a biologist and his attendance at regulatory meetings for your benefit, so I encourage you to step up the plate to let him help you!

Now, from David:

In order to assist folks in dealing with and understanding the processes of fisheries science and management, as well as to promote collaboration between commercial fishermen and recreational anglers, I am soliciting interest in an educational workshop to be put on by NCFCA at no cost to those attending. The workshop(s) will most likely be held late this summer and the specific details such as location, timeline and presenters will be determined based on the interest level of those who might participate. I imagine it to be possibly a one-day workshop, potentially held at multiple locations and dates, depending on interest. If you have been in the business for a while and feel you are sufficiently familiar, it might be of benefit to send one or two of your senior employees. A few of the general topics include the basics on gathering data, producing an assessment, the role of science in management, and developing regulations through the council and commission processes. This will be a great opportunity to better learn the process and learn from one another. There are a few familiar faces in the science world that have already expressed interest, and I would expect that I would be able to get a few council or commission members to present as well. Please contact me with your thoughts about suggested time frames and to provide contact information for you or anyone else from your organization that would like to attend.

David Bush: davidbush@ncfish.org or 910-777-1605

SOUTHERN FLOUNDER:

The clock is ticking and these expenses will only increase, so if you have not yet contributed to the Southern Flounder Fund, please consider doing so.

If you have not yet contributed, please do so ASAP!

Send your donations to:

NCFA

2807 Neuse Blvd; Suite 11

New Bern, NC 28562

Please make your check out to NCFA/Southern Flounder Fund or to the NC Fisheries Association and be sure to put Southern Flounder Fund in the memo.

CALENDAR

June 13-17; SAFMC meeting; Cocoa Beach, FL

June 14-16; MAFMC meeting; Newark, DE

June 14; 6:00pm; Gull Shoal Oyster Sanctuary Mtg; Hyde County Govt Bldg

June 23; 4:00pm; Sea Turtle Advisory Mtg; DEQ office, Washington NC

June 23: 5:00pm; Smooth Dogfish hearing; Dare County Courthouse