

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 7/5/2016**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**  
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**JERRY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEWS:**

Well, they adjourned! As noted last week, none of the provisions that we favored in the budget were passed. We did attempt to have the clarifying supplement language added to a regulatory reform bill, but the reg reform bill didn't pass either, as it never made it out of conference committee. That particular bill also included provisions that would make personal information regarding hunting licenses, recreational fishing licenses and commercial fishing licenses confidential. But a little more on that later.

One Senator told me last week: "If we're not passing legislation to hurt commercial fishermen, we're helping them". To a great extent, that is true. When one looks back over the years, we were fighting against legislation that would hurt commercial fishermen. I am disappointed that none of the 3 larger issues we wanted were passed in this short session, but we were not on defense this time, but offense. That's quite a switch, and it was noted by another legislator that I spoke with last week when he told me that while it may be disappointing that none of our provisions made it in the budget during this short session, at least now you're on offense. So noted!

Getting back to the confidentiality issues for personal information: when the recreational fishing license was passed in 2004, Senator Marc Basnight wanted to assure that the personal information would be confidential, so it was included in the legislation. However, a lawyer for the CCA challenged the Department and the Department decided that e-mails were not included. Thus, many folks were upset recently when they received an email from the CCA and couldn't figure out where that came from. As mentioned above, there was a move to "fix" that email loophole in a regulatory reform bill, but the General Assembly did not get the bill out of conference committee, so it's dead till next year.

What can you do? If you have a hunting, recreational fishing or commercial fishing license and want your personal information, including emails, to be kept confidential, let your legislator know. You should also let the Wildlife Resources Commission and Division of Marine Fisheries know how you feel about it.

The General Assembly will convene its long session in January next year and it's expected to be a very busy time for fishing related issues. Some legislators are expected to begin a series of stakeholder meetings to get input on the Fisheries Reform Act and everything associated with it, including the makeup of the Marine Fisheries Commission.

Jerry

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From David:

**NC Fisheries Workshop Update:**

I have gotten a lot of good feedback about the workshop, but cannot plan any further without a confirmation from folks who wish to attend. If any of you, or your employees/fishermen/associated workers would like to attend, I need confirmation via email at [davidbush@ncfish.org](mailto:davidbush@ncfish.org), or by phone at 910-777-1605.

The date is set for September 17th in New Bern, and if things go well, there will be future opportunities for those that missed it to attend.

Please check with your folks and reply as soon as possible so that this can move forward.

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**CORE SOUND WATERFOWL MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTER at Harkers Island  
ALL AMERICAN SHRIMP & FISH DINNER:**

**CELEBRATING OUR INDEPENDENCE AND THANKING THOSE WHO MAKE OUR FREEDOM POSSIBLE!**

Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 till 3:00pm!

**ACTIVE MILITARY AND VETERANS EAT FREE!**

(Special thanks to friends of the Museum for making this possible.)

Reservations for Military & Veteran Tickets are requested

Tickets are \$12 and includes drink and dessert!

Call (252) 728-1500 for Reservations & Ticket Information!

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**CARTERET COUNTY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION TO MEET:**

CCFA will have their next regular meeting on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

Marshallberg Community Club

Marshallberg, NC

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**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.

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### CALENDAR

July 9; All-American Shrimp & Fish Dinner; 11am – 3pm; Core Sound Waterfowl Museum; Harkers Island

July 9; Carteret County Fishermen's Association meeting; 6:00pm; Marshallberg Community Club

July 13; Noon; NCFA Board of Directors meeting; Civic Center; Washington NC

Aug 17 – 19: Marine Fisheries Commission meeting; Hilton Brownstone, Raleigh