

WEEKLY UPDATE: 5/8/2015
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
Phone: (252) 745-0225 - www.ncfish.org
Jerry Schill, President: jerryschill@ncfish.org Cell: 252-361-3015
Lauren Morris, Membership/Operations Manager:
laurenmorris@ncfish.org Cell: 252-725-2468

JERRY'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Regulatory Reform Bill, H-760, passed the House on Wednesday after a substantial debate. The bill is 39 pages, so there's lots in it, but only two issues involving fisheries:

- a.) For-hire logbooks;
- b.) Joint Enforcement Agreement

Here is the wording in the bill:

The Division of Marine Fisheries shall conduct a 12-month process to seek input from stakeholders on the following issues:

- (1) The costs and benefits of a logbook requirement similar to that repealed by subsection (a) of this section and whether such a requirement should be reenacted.
- (2) The impacts, costs, and benefits of a joint enforcement agreement similar to that prohibited by subsection (b) of this section and whether the authorization to enter into such an agreement should be reenacted.

The process shall also include the establishment of a stakeholder advisory group that includes persons who are for-hire license holders representing all major recreational fishing areas on the North Carolina coast, other recreational fishing interests, and relevant advocacy groups. The Division shall review and provide a written response to any issues raised by the advisory group and shall report to the Environmental Review Commission no later than October 15, 2016, its conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation.

So, H-760 does away, at least temporarily, with the for-hire logbook and JEA; however, it requires the Division of Marine Fisheries to conduct a 12-month study on both issues and issue a report to the Environmental Review Commission no later than October 2016 along with recommendations for legislation.

The Senate also passed bills that would do away with the for-hire logbook and JEA, but doesn't require a study. With that bill, even if they do go with a logbook, it would be on a voluntary basis. So, since there are different versions of those two issues, a small group of conferees of Senators and Representatives will attempt to get together to come up with a version both chambers can agree on.

Next week, S-573, "[Strengthen Oyster Industry](#)" will be heard by the Senate Committee on Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources, which was introduced by Senator Bill Cook.

NEW SAFETY AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS

Beginning Oct. 15, 2015, state and federally documented vessels operating beyond three nautical miles or operating anywhere with more than 16 people on board will be required to complete a dockside safety examination at least once every five years. Some vessels may be subject to more frequent examinations. Inspected vessels will be issued a safety decal, and will be considered in compliance until its expiration.

Vessels operating outside of three nautical miles will also be required to carry a survival craft onboard which ensures no part of an individual is immersed in water. Lifeboats and inflatable life rafts qualify as survival craft. This requirement becomes effective Feb. 16, 2016.

Also, effective March 2, 2016 all commercial fishing vessels over 65 feet will be required to carry either a Class A or Class B Automatic Identification System (AIS). This is a shipboard broadcast system that acts as a transponder operating in the VHF maritime band.

For more detailed information see the [news release](#). If you have questions, call the First District Office at 617-223-8315 or your local Sector Vessel Examiner. You can locate your local examiner at www.fishsafe.info.

Carteret County Fishermen's Association



Skeeter Saunders, CCFA fish fry, we miss you!

FISH FRY

Saturday, May 30th

11am – 6pm

Crissie Wright Lodge

Smyrna

Plates \$10.00

Dessert & Drink included

For more information contact: 252-723-8046 or ccfaofnc@gmail.com

SCOPING COMMENTS FOR SQUID CAPACITY AMENDMENT DUE MAY 11

The council is collecting scoping comments through May 11 for a potential amendment that would consider options for reducing the capacities of the longfin squid and Illex squid fleets. Additional information and updates on this amendment are available [here](#).

AMENDMENT A-7 SURVIVAL FUND

Members of the pelagic longline fleet and other related businesses have filed suit challenging aspects of Amendment 7 to the Highly Migratory Species FMP fearing further decline of domestic fisheries for rebuilt stocks and the possible resulting transfer of the United States' international quota to foreign fleets.

If you would like to donate to this legal fund, please make checks payable to A-7 Survival Fund and send to: Etheridge Seafood Company PO Box 77, Wanchese NC, 27981. Please include your contact information, best phone number to reach you, and email.

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.

May 9 at 6 p.m. – Carteret County Fishermen’s Association, Community Center, Marshallberg

May 11 at 2 p.m. - NCFA Board of Directors Meeting, N.C. Estuarium, 223 E. Water St., Washington

May 12 at 10 a.m.- Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Board, NCDMF Central District Office, 5285 Hwy. 70 W, Morehead City, NC

May 20-22 – Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting, Doubletree New Bern Riverfront Hotel, 100 Middle St., New Bern

PROCLAMATIONS:

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

[RULE SUSPENSION - GILL NET RESTRICTIONS: INTERNAL COASTAL WATERS](#)

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

[BLACK SEA BASS – COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS – ATLANTIC OCEAN – NORTH OF CAPE HATTERAS](#)