

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 9/14/2015**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**  
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**JERRY'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEWS AND OBSERVER:**

In response to your Sept. 1 editorial "Fishy business on fish rules": The N&O claimed the General Assembly was considering budget language that would keep the Marine Fisheries Commission from doing an amendment on southern flounder. That is not true, and our position has been that an amendment is what the commission should be doing. The issue is the relatively recent authority that has been given to the commission to do a supplement. That process is supposed to be a quick way to get regulations in place if it's determined that the species in question is in dire straits.

Although The N&O claims southern flounder is near collapse, there are no data to support such a claim. Further, the commission is using the supplement to ban gear, which can be done only through an amendment, as the supplement process does not allow for the more detailed public scrutiny.

We expect all fishermen to abide by the rules. Should not the regulatory body be held to the same standards or higher? Why does The N&O support an agency going outside the rules?

The Marine Fisheries Commission exists because it was created by the General Assembly. The commission is expected to abide by the rules that were adopted by the General Assembly. Why is it wrong for the General Assembly to provide oversight?

I have never heard anyone dispute the notion that commercial fishermen are some of the hardest working laborer's in our country.

**SIGN THE PETITION: [SAY NO TO THE NEW ENGLAND MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT](#)**

**MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION REGIONAL COMMITTEES TO MEET ON POTENTIAL SEA TURTLE INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMIT MODIFICATIONS**

The purpose of the meetings is to review information from the division's at-sea observer program, the number of large mesh gill net fishing days for each management unit, and to provide feedback on potential amendment items to the sea turtle and Atlantic sturgeon incidental take permits. Protected Resources staff will present information on the draft issue paper: Potential Amendments to the Sea Turtle and Atlantic Sturgeon Incidental Take Permits.

[Southern Regional Advisory Committee Briefing Materials](#)  
[Northern Regional Advisory Committee Briefing Materials](#)

**ATLANTIC SHARK IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS AND PROTECTED SPECIES SAFE HANDLING, RELEASE AND IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS**

Free Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops will be held in October, November, and December of 2015. Certain fishermen and shark dealers are required to attend a workshop to meet regulatory requirements and to maintain valid permits. Specifically, the Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop is mandatory for all federally permitted Atlantic shark dealers. The Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop is mandatory for vessel owners and operators who use bottom longline, pelagic longline, or gillnet gear, and who have also been issued shark or swordfish limited access permits. Additional free workshops will be conducted during 2016 and will be announced in a future notice. For more information and schedules see the [news release](#).

## [ASMFC FISHERIES FOCUS AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE](#)

### **US CUTS DUMPING TAX ON SHRIMP**

Cuts to anti-dumping tariffs are expected to accelerate shrimp exports to the US for the remaining part of the year after shrimp exports witnessed a hefty drop of more than 50 per cent. The US Department of Commerce on Monday announced the final result of the 9th period of review on anti-dumping tariffs imposed on Vietnamese frozen shrimp products exported to the US market from Feb. 1, 2013 to Jan. 31, 2014, according to the Viet Nam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers. [Read the rest of the story.](#)

### **NOAA AWARDS \$2.75 MILLION FOR MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE EFFORTS**

NOAA Fisheries announced the award of \$2.75 million in grant funding to partner organizations in 16 states to respond to and rehabilitate stranded marine mammals and collect data on their health. The John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program provides funding to non-profit and for-profit organizations, academic institutions, and state agencies that are members of the National Marine Mammal Stranding Network. For more information read the [news release](#).

### **REGULATION AND RULE CHANGES:**

-USCG Mandatory Dockside Inspections Required Effective Oct. 15

### **DEADLINES:**

*Sept. 14* - [NMFS Generic Amendment to Snapper-Grouper, Golden Crab and Dolphin-Wahoo FMPs](#) Comments

*Sept. 17* - 2016 Commercial [Atlantic Shark Season](#) Comments

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

**Sept. 14 at 6 p.m.** - Oyster and Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting, DENR Regional Office, 943 Washington Square Mall, Washington

**Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m.** - MAFMC Scoping Hearing for Unmanaged Forage Species, DENR Regional Office, 943 Washington Square Mall, Washington

**Sept. 17 at 6 p.m.** - MFC Sea Turtle Advisory Committee Meeting, DENR Regional Office, 943 Washington Square Mall, Washington

### **PROCLAMATIONS:**

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

[RESEARCH SANCTUARY](#) (RS-4-2015 RESCINDED)