

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 7/20/2015**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**  
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**TRADEWINDS**

The July/August issue of Tradewinds will be published soon, but there's still time for you to secure your advertisement! Email [Maureen](mailto:Maureen) or give her a call at 252-675-3128 to place an ad.

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We have a large number of addresses being returned by the post office. If you aren't receiving your copy, please let [Lauren](mailto:Lauren) know.

**NMFS REMINDER: COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN MAY LAND RECREATIONAL BAG LIMIT FOR SOME SPECIES IF THE RECREATIONAL SEASON IS OPEN**

**MENHADEN ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP SET FOR AUG. 31-SEPT. 1**

Based on the findings of the 2015 Atlantic Menhaden Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review, the Commission's Atlantic Menhaden Management Board initiated Draft Amendment 3 to the Fishery Management Plan. The Draft Amendment will consider changes to the management program including the development of ecological reference points that reflect Atlantic menhaden's role as a forage species. To aid in the development of these reference points, the Commission has established a multi-disciplinary working group to identify potential ecosystem goals and objectives for Board review and consideration. The working group contains a broad range of representation including, Commissioners, advisers, and technical representatives to provide various perspectives on menhaden management. For more information and comment opportunities see the [news release](#).

**CORAL AMENDMENT 8 EFFECTIVE AUG. 17**

The amendment extends protections for deepwater coral ecosystems by expanding the boundaries of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern, and the Stetson-Miami Terrace and Cape Lookout Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern. Within Habitat Areas of Particular Concern, the use of bottom longline, bottom trawl, dredge, pot or trap is prohibited. If aboard a fishing vessel, anchor, use of anchor and chain, and grapple and chain is prohibited. Mid-water trawls are

also prohibited in Stetson-Miami Terrace and Cape Lookout Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern.

## **MAFMC SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR NORTHEAST TRAWL SURVEY ADVISORY PANEL**

The objectives for the panel are to understand existing NEFSC trawl survey gear performance and methodology, evaluate the potential to complement or supplement current NEFSC surveys and to improve understanding and acceptance of NEFSC survey data quality and results. Applications Due by Aug. 4. For more information and to download applications see the [announcement](#).

## **REGULATION AND RULE CHANGES:**

- Bycatch Reduction Methodology [Final Rule](#) Effective July 30
- [Coral Amendment 8](#) in the South Atlantic Effective Aug. 17
- USCG Mandatory Dockside Inspections Required Effective Oct. 15

## **DEADLINES:**

*July 31* - SAFMC [AP Applications](#)

*Aug. 4* - MAFMC Northeast Trawl Survey [AP Applications](#)

*Sept. 1* - [SAFMC Snapper-Grouper Draft Vision Blueprint](#) Comments

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

**July 13 at 6 p.m.** - Oyster and Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting, DMF Central District Office, 5285 Hwy 70 W, Morehead City

**July 28** - SAFMC Snapper-Grouper Vision Blueprint Comment Meeting - Wilmington

**July 29** - SAFMC Snapper-Grouper Vision Blueprint Comment Meeting - Morehead City

**July 30** - SAFMC Snapper-Grouper Vision Blueprint Comment Meeting - Wanchese

**Aug. 3 at 2 p.m.** - NCFA Board of Directors Meeting

**Aug. 4-6** - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting

**Aug. 11-13** - Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council Meeting

**Aug. 12** - SAFMC Snapper-Grouper Amendment 16 Public Hearing, Jacksonville, NC

**Aug. 13** - SAFMC Snapper-Grouper Amendment 26 Public Hearing, Morehead City

**Aug. 19-21** - Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting, Raleigh

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

CRAB TRAWLING AND TAKING SHRIMP WITH NETS