

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 6/27/2016**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**  
**Phone: (252) 633-NCFA (6232)**  
**[www.ncfish.org](http://www.ncfish.org)**  
**Jerry Schill, President: [jerryschill@ncfish.org](mailto:jerryschill@ncfish.org); ext. 100**  
**David Bush, Fisheries Biologist: [davidbush@ncfish.org](mailto:davidbush@ncfish.org); ext. 102**  
**Peggy Page, Accounting: [peggy@ncfish.org](mailto:peggy@ncfish.org); ext. 103**

---

**JERRY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEWS:**

**BUDGET CONFEREES HAVE SUBMITTED THE BUDGET!**

The Senate & House conferees have agreed to the final provisions for the budget. **None of the 3 issues we supported are in the final version, which is on today's Senate calendar. (Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.)**

**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.

---

**LAST WEEK'S UPDATE:**

**There was none, so you didn't miss anything.**

---

**From David:**

**SEA TURTLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS:**

Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Sea Turtle Advisory Committee met at the NCDMF office in Washington, NC. The hot topic was an ITP for pound nets. The discussion appeared to be temporarily derailed as folks discussed the history of the current ITP for gillnets and interaction with endangered species. As it turned out, this was a positive direction and clearly illustrated the need to address and correct the current situation, before inviting more complications. I provided public comment suggesting that any future application for permits, should come only after we have worked the bugs out of the gillnet ITP. Each member of the committee spoke on the many reasons ITP's are necessary, but in the end, it was agreed and unanimously voted on, to work on fixing our current situation before applying for another ITP.

The conversation quickly transitioned to the gillnet ITP. Chris Batsavage of NCDMF stated that the division clearly recognizes that it needs amended to account for the increasing sea turtle abundance and the complication of management. Everyone concurred that managing the ITP based on numbers of interactions vice percentage of mitigation was not appropriate considering this, and if other strategies were not implemented, the committee and commission would continue to address the same concerns every few years. After some lengthy discussion, the committee unanimously voted to advise the MFC to direct NCDMF to work with industry, specifically NCFA, to develop gear and or regulations for sea turtle mitigation, and ultimately, adoption into the existing gillnet ITP.

Jacob Boyd later presented the Recreational Hook and Line, and Gillnet Observer Program updates, and explained the results from 2015's observations. A few notable items included discovering 16.2% of the 552 recreational observations, were of fishermen targeting cobia; and that of all recreational observations of fishermen targeting any species, bycatch (unwanted and regulatory discards) comprised 83% of the total catch. These were data dense presentations, so if you have any further questions concerning them or the meeting, please contact me at [davidbush@ncfish.org](mailto:davidbush@ncfish.org).

---

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

July 6: 10:00 – 12:00; Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass conf call