

WEEKLY UPDATE: 4/25/2016
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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HOUSE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED DMF & FISHERIES REFORM ACT:

The House Select Committee on Wildlife Resources, chaired by Rep. John Bell, met last Wednesday in Raleigh and heard from Assistant Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries, Jim Kelley. He gave a power point about the various areas of responsibilities within DMF.

Jeff Hudson, Legislative Research staff, gave an overview of the Moratorium Steering Committee and the Fisheries Reform Act of 1997.

There was no public comment, although NCFA, CCA and the Wildlife Federation were present. Jerry Schill, David Bush, Jess Hawkins, Terry Pratt and 3 others from the Albemarle area attended.

The Committee will not meet again until after the short session ends.

ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE HALF PERCENT PROGRAM:

Murray Nixon Fishery of the Rock Hock community near Edenton is the latest addition to NCFA's "Half Percent" program! The late Murray Nixon was a long time member of NCFA's Board of Directors and Murray & Marion rarely missed a Board meeting.

Nixon's will deduct one half of one percent of the boat's net when they pack out. Nixon's will then match that and forward to NCFA. Each fisherman is a member by participating.

Many thanks to Ricky Nixon, Murray L. Nixon Fishery and the fishermen who pack with them for participating in the half percent program!

We encourage others to do likewise, so if you would like more information about it, call us. If you would like details on how easy it is to set it up, give Aundrea O'Neal of Beaufort Inlet Seafood a call and she'll fill you in. Her number is: (252) 503-8302.

COBIA MEETING:

The South Atlantic & Mid Atlantic Councils will hold a meeting to discuss cobia on Monday, May 9th, from 6:00 – 8:00pm at the Hilton in Kill Devil Hills. To participate in the webinar, register here:

ON THE ROAD:

In addition to the legislative meeting in Raleigh last week that was attended by Jerry, David, Jess & Terry, Jerry & Pam Schill also visited with Ross Butler, who was recently named the CEO of Cooke Seafood USA Inc., and Wanchese Fish Co. He will live with his family in Suffolk while Joey Daniels will manage their operation in Wanchese, NC.

The purchase of Wanchese Fish Company by the Cooke family was announced last June. More detailed information about Cooke Aquaculture and the Cooke family history will be shared in the near future.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY BACK IN SESSION:

The North Carolina General Assembly convened on Monday evening, April 25th, for their “short session”. There are no immediate concerns about any fisheries related bills at this time, although Rep. Billy Richardson of Fayetteville has made some comments about introducing a net ban referendum. He did the same thing back in 1995 when he was in the NC House the first time, but it didn’t go anywhere.

SOUTHERN FLOUNDER:

Thanks to those of you who have contributed to our Southern Flounder Fund. Those funds will be used exclusively for issues related to southern flounder, either legally or other avenues to address the situation.

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

Apr 25; North Carolina General Assembly convenes for the Short Session
May 2; Noon; NCFA Board meeting; Civic Center, Washington NC
May 2-5; ASMFC Spring Meeting; Westin; Alexandria, VA
May 9; Cobia meeting; 6:00pm; Hilton, Kill Devil Hills

May 10; 5:30 – 7:30pm; Legislative Reception; Raleigh NC

May 18-20; MFC meeting; Civic Center; Morehead City

June 13-17; SAFMC meeting; Cocoa Beach, FL

June 14-16; MAFMC meeting; Newark, DE