

WEEKLY UPDATE: 5/9/2016
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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NOTE: We had a hectic week due to the Legislative Reception and other things going on in the General Assembly, so while this Update is dated for May 9th, it's being sent on May 12th. Sorry for the delay.

CCFA FISH FRY!

The Carteret County Fishermen's Association will have their Annual Fish Fry & Bake Sale on Saturday, May 21st, at the Crissie Wright Lodge from 11:00am till 6:00pm.

\$10.00 per plate.

If you are Down East, you should stop in. If you have no plans to be Down East on that day, you need to change your plans! The food is great, but the conversations are better! Almost better than dessert! Bring your cameras. Lots of Facebook picture posting opportunities available.

MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION TO MEET!

The MFC will meet next week, beginning with a public comment/question period on Wednesday evening, with another opportunity for public comment on Thursday morning. That will be followed by their business meeting till about noon on Friday.

The meeting will be at the Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City. See the full agenda here:
<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/05-2016-briefing-book>

JERRY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEWS:

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION:

Wow, what a great event! We'll have more details later, but it was well attended by legislators and their staffs and many others including county commissioners from coastal counties. The reception was held on Tuesday evening and on Wednesday I received many positive comments and "thank-yous". We'll send out a special edition of the update about the Reception in a few days.

LEGISLATION:

There are a couple of legislative issues to report this week:

SB-891; ENCOURAGE MARINE AQUACULTURE;

Primary Sponsors are Senators Bill Cook, Norman Sanderson and Jerry Tillman, with Senator McInnis also as a sponsor. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources.

NET BAN; HB-1122; LIMIT MARINE NET FISHING:

Rep. Billy Richardson from Fayetteville, introduced HB-1122. The title of the bill is “Limit Marine Net Fishing”, but that’s a deceiving title. It’s a net ban bill! If passed, it would call for a referendum on the statewide ballot this November. This is similar to the bill he introduced in 1995. The bill didn’t get any traction then, and shouldn’t this time. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Wildlife Resources.

The introduction of this bill, although very disappointing, is not a surprise, as Rep. Richardson has stated several times that he would introduce it.

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION:

NCFA was one of the sponsoring organizations for the Legislative Reception that was held this past Tuesday evening. It was a tremendous success with nice weather, great food and fellowship and a huge crowd! We’ll provide more information and a few pictures later.

In the meantime, thanks to all of those who helped with the planning, sponsoring, donating seafood, cooking, serving and other stuff and to all the legislators and staff who attended!

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

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

May 21; 11:00am to 6:00pm CCFA Fish Fry; Crissy Wright Lodge in Smyrna

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

June 14-16; MAFMC meeting; Newark, DE

