

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 4/17/2015**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**  
**Phone: (252) 745-0225 - [www.ncfish.org](http://www.ncfish.org)**  
**Jerry Schill, President: [jerryschill@ncfish.org](mailto:jerryschill@ncfish.org) Cell: 252-361-3015**  
**Lauren Morris, Membership/Operations Manager:**  
**[laurenmorris@ncfish.org](mailto:laurenmorris@ncfish.org) Cell: 252-725-2468**

**UPCOMING NCFA BOARD MEETING**

The Board of Directors will meet 2 p.m. Monday at the N.C. Estuarium located at 223 E Water St. in Washington. The board will discuss the proposed supplement to the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan and other important issues.

**SUMMER FLOUNDER OPENING**

The next summer flounder window will be open April 27-Sept. 30 with a 75 box limit and 100 pound black sea bass allowance, per conversation with Louis Daniel. The official proclamation will be issued next week.

**JERRY'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Things were much busier in Raleigh this week as the crossover deadline is coming up on April 30. If bills that do not pass either the House or the Senate by that date, they die. Of course, there is still the opportunity to provide amendments to existing bills or see something during the budget deliberations, so one still must remain vigilant.

On Thursday, NCFA Board Member Terry Pratt and I attended the Rules Review Commission meeting as their agenda included several regulatory issues by the Marine Fisheries Commission. We'll have an update on that meeting in next week's report.

Next Tuesday, H-302 "[Strengthen Oyster Industry](#)" will be taken up by the House Agriculture Committee.

There are times when a committee will take up a bill at the last moment, especially when the legislators are facing an important deadline.

**MAFMC TAKES ACTION TO MANAGE BLUELINE TILEFISH**

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council voted Wednesday to move forward with development of measures for the long-term management of blueline tilefish in the Mid-Atlantic. The council will consider several approaches, including creation of a new fishery management plan and development of an amendment to add blueline tilefish to the existing golden tilefish plan. For more information, see the [news release](#).

**AMENDMENT A-7 SURVIVAL FUND**

Members of the pelagic longline fleet and other related businesses have filed suit challenging aspects of Amendment 7 to the Highly Migratory Species FMP fearing further decline of domestic fisheries for rebuilt stocks and the possible resulting transfer of the United States' international quota to foreign fleets.

If you would like to donate to this legal fund, please make checks payable to A-7 Survival Fund and send to: Etheridge Seafood Company PO Box 77, Wanchese NC, 27981. Please include your contact information, best phone number to reach you, and email.

**BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL PUBLIC MEETINGS**

BOEM has scheduled public meetings in several states beginning March 31 to answer questions and provide stakeholders with information on Geological and Geophysical activities in the Atlantic. For more information see the [news release](#).

## **SAMFC SEEKS INPUT ON SPAWNING SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS**

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is holding a series of public hearings and a workshop to solicit public input on areas that could be considered for designation as Spawning Special Management Zones in federal waters (ranging from 3 to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of the Carolinas, Georgia, and the east coast of Florida. The Spawning Special Management Zones (SMZs) are being considered in Amendment 36 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan. For more information on these meetings or how to submit written comment see the [news release](#).

### **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.*

**April 20 at 2 p.m.** - NCFA Board of Directors Meeting, N.C. Estuarium, 223 E. Water St., Washington, NC

**April 21 at 6 p.m.** - SAFMC Public Hearings on Spawning Special Management Zones, DMF Central District Office, 5285 Hwy 70 W, Morehead City

**April 24 at 10:30 a.m.** - MAFMC River Herring and Shad Advisory Panel Meeting via [webinar](#)

**April 27 from 3-4:30 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m.** - Ramada Plaza Nags Head Oceanfront, 1701 S. Virginia Dare Trail, Kill Devil Hills

### **PROCLAMATIONS:**

[RULE SUSPENSION-GILL NET RESTRICTIONS: INTERNAL COASTAL WATERS](#)

[RESEARCH SANCTUARY](#)