

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 5/29/2015**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**  
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**TILLIS ADDRESSES H-2B CRISIS WITH NC SEASONAL EMPLOYEES**

Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC) met with members of the North Carolina seafood industry to address their concerns around the current H-2B Visa crisis. On the brink of peak season without workers to sustain business, the senator toured Pamlico Packing Company in Grantsboro, before meeting with several seafood business owners from the coast.

Senator Tillis, a member of the Senate Agriculture and Judiciary Committees, has been a leading advocate in a bipartisan effort pushing for coastal-state seasonal workers to obtain H-2B Visas. The Senator recently demanded the Department of Homeland Security explain why the issuance cap for H-2B Visas was met much earlier than previous years, but he has yet to receive an explanation.

“It’s preposterous that our coastal businesses, communities and local economies will suffer because the Administration inexplicably refuses to address this H-2B crisis,” said Senator Tillis after the visit. “We have jobs waiting to be filled, and yet DHS will not prioritize American businesses and help workers fill the positions that are waiting for them. H-2B workers are vital in sustaining our seafood industry not just in North Carolina, but in all coastal states, and it’s obvious that the damage is already being felt.”



**JERRY'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

We are very grateful for Senator Tillis for his active engagement on the labor issues facing the seafood industry in general and the blue crab processing plants in particular. This business is hard enough without the road block that bureaucratic agencies put in place whose only purpose seems to be for them to justify their existence. Senator Tillis has been involved in a bi-partisan effort to work this out so our blue crab processors can supply a very popular product to consumers in North Carolina and along the east coast. It's very obvious to us that the Senator and his staff are very concerned about our plight and working hard to solve the problem.

## MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING

[-Meeting summary](#)

[-Motions](#)

# Carteret County Fishermen's Association



Skeeter Saunders, CCFA fish fry, we miss you!

# FISH FRY

***Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>***

***11am – 6pm***

**Crissie Wright Lodge**

**Smyrna**

***Plates \$10.00***

**Dessert & Drink included**

For more information contact: 252-723-8046 or [ccfaofnc@gmail.com](mailto:ccfaofnc@gmail.com)

## **LATEST MFC RULEBOOK NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**

The 2015 N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules is now available online. The rulebook contains rules as of May 1, 2015 as well as select general statutes and session laws. [Send an email](#) to automatically add yourself to the Marine Fisheries Commission Rules Interested Parties email distribution list for rulemaking updates.

### **REMINDERS:**

- Beginning June 1 an additional BRD will be required in all trawls in NC waters
- Beginning June 1 the HMS Electronic Monitoring System goes into effect

**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.

**June 8 at 2 p.m.-** NCFA Board Meeting, NC Estuarium, 223 E Water St., Washington

**June 8-12 -** SAFMC Meeting, DoubleTree Grand Key Resort, 3990 S Roosevelt Blvd, Key West, FL

**June 9-11 -** MAFMC Meeting, Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront, 3001 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA

**June 3 at 1 p.m. -** SAFMC Science and Statistical Committee Meeting Via Webinar (Blueline Tilefish)

**June 19 at 6 p.m. -** MFC Sea Turtle Advisory Committee Meeting

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

[SHEEPSHEAD – RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL](#)

[CRAB, EEL, FISH AND SHRIMP POTS](#)