

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 3/27/2015**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**  
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**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

We are following the following bills:

Expand Shellfish Cultivation Areas: S-34

Sponsors: Senators Cook, Tillman, Sanderson, Brock, Krawiec Newton and Pate

<http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2015/Bills/Senate/PDF/S34v1.pdf>

Currently in the Senate Rules Committee; has not been debated yet

**NCFA Board has not discussed this bill, but staff sees no problems with it based upon previous NCFA positions.**

Commercial Fishing Courses/Coastal Colleges: S-112

Sponsors Cook, Tillman and Sanderson

<http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2015/Bills/Senate/PDF/S112v1.pdf>

Has passed the Senate 49-0 and will now go to the House

**NCFA Board has not discussed this bill, but staff sees no problems with it based upon previous NCFA positions.**

Modify For-Hire Logbook Requirement: S-374

Sponsor: Senator Cook

<http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2015/Bills/Senate/PDF/S374v1.pdf>

Currently in the Senate Rules Committee; has not been debated yet

**NCFA position: NCFA Board discussed this issue at length and unanimously passed a motion to address this issue; however, the language in this bill does not agree with the NCFA Board's position.**

Strengthen Oyster Industry: S-573

Sponsors: Senators Cook, Tillman, Sanderson and Brock

<http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2015/Bills/Senate/PDF/S573v0.pdf>

Bill not yet assigned to a committee, so has not been debated yet

**NCFA position: No position yet, but staff has concerns about this bill based upon previous NCFA position. Staff believe the General Assembly should reinstate the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood & Aquaculture and this bill should be referred to that Commission for further public input and recommendations.**

Strengthen Oyster Industry: H-302

Sponsors: Representatives Tine, McElraft, Millis, Harrison, J. Bell, Bradford, B. Brown, Bryan, Carney, Dobson, Fisher, G. Graham, D. Hall, Hamilton, Jeter, Lucas, Meyer, Shepard, Speciale, Steinburg, Waddell, Wray

<http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2015/Bills/House/PDF/H302v1.pdf>

Currently in the House Agriculture Committee, so has not been debated yet

NCFA position: This bill was filed after the last NCFA Board meeting, but the merits of the wording of the bill fit with previous positions taken by the Board; we therefore support this bill. Note that it does reinstate the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood & Aquaculture.

## **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](#). The North Carolina meetings are:

Tuesday, April 7, 2015 (3:00 to 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.)  
Hilton Wilmington Riverside Hotel  
301 North Water Street  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

Monday, April 27, 2015 (3:00 to 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.)  
Ramada Plaza Nags Head Oceanfront  
1701 S. Virginia Dare Trail  
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

## **NOAA IMPLEMENTING MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO END OVERFISHING OF BLUELINE TILEFISH IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC**

NOAA Fisheries is implementing management measures in Amendment 32 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 32). The final rule publishes in the

*Federal Register*, and is effective, on March 30, 2015.

Amendment 32 contains management measures that end overfishing (rate of fish removal too high) of blueline tilefish in the South Atlantic. A population assessment completed in 2013 determined that blueline tilefish is undergoing overfishing. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries are required by law to prepare and implement a plan amendment and regulations to end overfishing by December 6, 2015.

Note that recreational harvest of blueline tilefish is scheduled to begin on May 1, 2015. However, the recreational sector will not open in 2015 if recreational landings have reached, or are projected to reach, the recreational annual catch limit. In addition, the commercial sector will close in 2015 when commercial landings reach, or are projected to reach, the commercial annual catch limit.

For more information see the [news release](#).

## **JERRY'S COMMENTS:**

The highlight of this week in Raleigh was most certainly the Legislative Reception held on Wednesday evening! Estimates of over 500 folks in attendance with a very large number of Senators and Representatives and Governor McCrory stopping by.

The event was sponsored by NC Catch, North Carolina Watermen United, North Carolina Fisheries Association, Ocracoke Working Watermen's Association, Brunswick Catch, Outer Banks Catch, Carteret Catch, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture's "got to be NC SEAFOOD", Albemarle Fishermen's

Association, Brunswick County Fishermen's Association, Carteret County Fishermen's Association and Pamlico County Fishermen's Association.

The food was superb, weather was very nice and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. It was just a grand event. So much so that the police stopped by to talk about the traffic concerns!

A special thank you to the ladies that did so much work on this with kudos to Fred Mills, our host at Mills Construction for the use of his facility and also to Tom Thumb Catering and his crew.

## **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*

**March 30 at 6:30 p.m.** - Albemarle Fishermen's Association, Leon Nixon Catering, 749 Virginia Rd., Edenton

**March 31 at 9:30 a.m.** - Marine Fisheries Commission Shrimp Bycatch Reduction Industry Work Group Workshop #1, N.C. History Center, Tryon Palace, 529 South Front St., New Bern

**April 6 at 6 p.m.** - Oyster and Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee, DENR Regional Office, 943 Washington Square Mall, Washington

**April 8 at 6 p.m.** - MFC Southern Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, DMF Central District Office, 5285 Hwy 70 W., Morehead City

**April 9 at 6 p.m.** - MFC Northern Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, DENR Regional Office, 943 Washington Square Mall, Washington

**April 14-16** - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting, Ocean Place Resort, 1 Ocean Blvd, Long Branch, NJ

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

## **PROCLAMATIONS:**

[RESEARCH SANCTUARY](#)

[SNAPPER-GROUPER COMPLEX- RECREATIONAL PURPOSES](#)

[SNAPPER-GROUPER COMPLEX-COMMERCIAL PURPOSES](#)