

WEEKLY UPDATE: 5/22/2015
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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MFC APPROVES FLOUNDER SUPPLEMENT WITH DRASTIC REDUCTIONS INCLUDING GILL NET BAN, POUND NET TAC AND INCREASED SIZE LIMIT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Marine Fisheries Commission voted to approve Supplement A to the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1 for public comment. The draft supplement presented for public comment will include [six options](#) ranging from status quo to prohibiting gill nets for southern flounder harvest. The commission will hold one public meeting (date and location yet to be determined) to receive comment on these proposed measures. The commission will vote on whether to give final approval for the supplement at its Aug. 19-21 business meeting in Raleigh.

JERRY'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

S-160, [Enhance Safety & Commerce for Port/Inlets](#); has passed the Senate and is now in the House Rules Committee. The bill is one that we have supported, but last week a provision was added that we were not informed about prior to inclusion, which adds a fee for boats 24ft and above. It would require a sticker for the vessel and has a formula attached to it for computing the fee. For example, a 40ft boat would have an annual fee of \$200. We know that we need dredging. We know that it costs money to do the dredging and that money has to come from somewhere. However, for a fee like this to be added without even letting us know is not a way to govern. Senator Norm Sanderson was the only opposing vote in the Senate because of that issue and he pulled his name as a sponsor because of it. We will need to work on it on the House side.

The current version of S-573, [Strengthen Oyster Industry](#); received a favorable report from the Senate Ag/Environment/Natural Resources Committee after being changed significantly by Senator Bill Cook, the primary sponsor. NCFCA had some issues with the bill as did some others. The bill will be heard next by the Senate Commerce Committee.

The House has been working on its version of the budget and we are currently reviewing it.

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.

SENATOR TILLIS ADDRESSES IMPACT OF H2B CRISIS ON OUR STATE'S SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6SgHlkqVFE>

Carteret County Fishermen's Association



Skeeter Saunders, CCFA fish fry, we miss you!

FISH FRY

Saturday, May 30th

11am – 6pm

Crissie Wright Lodge

Smyrna

Plates \$10.00

Dessert & Drink included

For more information contact: 252-723-8046 or ccfaofnc@gmail.com

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.

May 23 at 6 p.m. - Carteret County Fishermen's Association Meeting, Community Center, Marshallberg

May 28 - Pamlico County Fishermen's Association Meeting

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

PROCLAMATIONS:

No proclamations were issued this week.