

WEEKLY UPDATE: 6/13/2016
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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JERRY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEWS:

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

Nothing new to report. The bill remains in the House Rules Committee with the only sponsor being Rep. Billy Richardson.

BUDGET NOW IN CONFERENCE:

The Senate passed its version of the budget late last week, so now the Senate and House budget negotiators will be working to reconcile their differences. I expect most decisions to be made by the end of the week.

FISH STUFF:

There are some fisheries issues in the budget. We sent out a special notice at the end of last week about it. Either you didn't read it or you don't care. So be it. You would think that legislators know that I speak for quite a few other folks when I offer the opinions of NCFA. Well, they don't. Get your butts off Facebook, quit whining to those that don't matter and start being more vocal with the ones that do.

Ever go to a concert where the only person that showed up was the conductor? Neither have I, but it would be rather boring, regardless of who good the conductor was. I like doing what I do, but without y'all being firmly behind the effort, it's not worth the time. It might come as a surprise, but legislators are human! (Well, with some exceptions.) They have a very tough job as most just "want to do the right thing". Many times they just don't know what the right thing is! So let them know what the right thing is from your perspective.

My wife says I'm mean and I need a vacation. (As if the vacation will make me nicer.) What will make me feel a little better is if y'all, as in YOU, will either send an email or pick up the phone and call a legislator or two.

I love y'all, but you sure are aggravatin'!

Jerry

NCFA Meets with Senator Thom Tillis:

On June 1st, NCFA's Chairman Brent Fulcher and Biologist David Bush, met with Senator Thom Tillis. In attendance also, were Brent's son Jonathon Fulcher of B&J Seafood, Don Cross of Pamlico Packing, Tara Carawan of Capt. Neal's Seafood, Sherry Carawan of Mattamuskeet Seafood, as well as Tony Pope and Tim Portland representing the landscaping industry. Most of the talks centered on the H-2B program and how it

affects industries here in NC. The seafood industry discussed having a workforce that could deal with the seasonality and variability of the work.

Those representing the landscaping industry explained that they were having a difficult time utilizing documented workers while trying to be cost effective, yet still be competitive with those using undocumented workers and undercutting pricing.

Senator Tillis expressed concern and committed to doing all he could to ensure the program was implemented properly, and address these issues.

The group also discussed the working relationship with other government agencies such as the National Marine Fisheries Service, and those in Protected Resources and Highly Migratory Species. Fulcher thanked the Senator for assisting in facilitating communications and hoped for continued dialogue with these agencies to determine a path forward. All of the attendees took the opportunity to address concerns with Tillis and thanked him for his assistance so far. Before the meeting was over, Senator Tillis made it a point to ensure his Senior Legislative Assistant, Courtney Temple was recognized for her efforts with H-2B. He said she handles the majority of the work related to it, and is vital to continued efforts.

Overall, it was a good meeting, and allowed everyone input and a chance to ask questions.



Photograph by Jonathan Fulcher

L-R David Bush, NCFA Biologist; Courtney Temple, Senior Legislative Assistant; Senator Thom Tillis; Brent Fulcher, NCFA Chairman

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

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

June 14-16; MAFMC meeting; Newark, DE

June 14; 6:00pm; Gull Shoal Oyster Sanctuary Mtg; Hyde County Govt Bldg

June 23; 4:00pm; Sea Turtle Advisory Mtg; DEQ office, Washington NC

June 23; 5:00pm; Smooth Dogfish hearing; Dare County Courthouse