

WEEKLY UPDATE: 7/3/2015
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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WEEKLY UPDATE

NCFA staffers have discussed distributing the Weekly Update on Mondays rather than Fridays. Before its official, we'd like our members to weigh in on the change. Please let Lauren know whether you prefer Friday or Monday as soon as possible.

JERRY'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The House Appropriation Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources held a 2+ hour meeting on Wednesday morning to discuss the differences between the Senate and House budgets. Part of that discussion involved marine fisheries issues. After hearing from the staff on Fiscal Research, Louis Daniel spoke on his perspective concerning some provisions in the Senate budget, in particular the JEA and supplement issues.

Louis stated why he thought the supplement issue is needed and spoke against the Senate provision that would take away the ability to do a supplement until sometime next year. Upon questioning from Rep. Pat McElraft, Louis said he did not think the supplement process gives them the authority to enact a gillnet ban or a total allowable catch for Southern Flounder. Rep. McElraft asked him pointedly what he would do if the MFC votes in August to ban large mesh gillnets and Louis answered that he would have a real problem signing a proclamation to do that.

When Rep. Millis asked Louis about JEA, Louis said he did not want to speak for it or against it but would just offer some facts, but then he went on to speak in favor of it! However, he said he would not enter into a JEA unless he was instructed to by his boss.

Rep. Millis said it appeared that we have a rogue Commission that needs some guidance by the General Assembly. He said he has heard from credible sources that some members of the Commission had been meeting in violation of the Open Meetings Laws. That comment seemed to get the attention of those in the room.

At the end of that part of the meeting, Chairman Jimmy Dixon said he would allow two individuals speak for up to 3 minutes each so I spoke as did Chuck Laughridge. My comments were consistent, as we have said we are opposed to the supplement process for Southern Flounder and favor doing an amendment. It has come to my attention that the CCA has felt it important to interpret my words spoken at that meeting, but allow me to state the following:

My statement at the Committee meeting on Wednesday has been consistent:

* We are addressing the process, meaning that we should be going through an amendment, not a supplement;

- * We are not denying that there are concerns in the fishery, but it should be addressed through an amendment;
- * The process of improperly using the supplement is a means of furthering an agenda by some MFC members;
- * I further stated on Wednesday at the meeting, that had the MFC begun the process for an amendment in February, we would be well underway to addressing the concerns.

The CCA implied in an email to a recreational fisherman that I agreed that 90% of the harvest was juvenile fish. That was spoken by Louis Daniel in his comments and I didn't even reference it in my comments.

I also said that if the MFC would be looking at an amendment rather than pushing an agenda, we wouldn't be having this discussion today, and if they had started an amendment back in February when they should have, we would be well underway with getting it done.

The committee only discussed these issues but have not made any recommendations.

DMF RELEASES ANNUAL STOCK STATUS REPORT

Atlantic menhaden, black drum, kingfishes, king mackerel and spotted seatrout were all reclassified as viable this year. Black sea bass (north of Hatteras) and southern flounder have been reclassified as species of concern. Gag was reclassified as recovering. View the complete [2015 Stock Status Report](#).

SAFMC SNAPPER-GROUPER VISIONING PROJECT

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is developing a long-term "vision" for managing the snapper grouper fishery into the future. The council will be collecting public input on the Draft Vision Blueprint between July and Sept. 1, 2015. There will be several opportunities to talk informally with staff and council members as well as opportunities to submit written comments. For more information and public comment opportunities see the [news release](#).

	<u>APPLICATION</u>
Golden Crab AP	4 open seats
Habitat AP	1 FL conservation seat 1 NC conservation seat
Mackerel AP	3 open seats
Law Enforcement AP	1 open seat
Deepwater Shrimp AP	10 open seats
Snapper-Grouper AP	2 NC open seats 1 FL open seat 1 media representative 1 NGO seat
SEDAR AP	open seats

UPCOMING DEADLINES FOR COMMENT:

- July 6 - MAFMC Blueline Tilefish Temporary Rule
- July 6 - SAFMC Regulatory Amendment 22 to the Snapper-Group FMP
- July 10 - MFC Draft Supplement A to the Southern Flounder FMP Amendment 1
- July 11 - NOAA Southeast Regional Draft Strategic Plan

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.

July 13 at 2 p.m. - NCFA Board Meeting. NC Estuarium, 223 E. Water St., Washington

July 13 at 6 p.m. - Oyster and Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting, DMF Central District Office, 5285 Hwy 70 W, Morehead City

PROCLAMATIONS:

[SPANISH MACKEREL - COMMERCIAL/RECREATIONAL](#)

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

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