

WEEKLY UPDATE: 6/19/2015
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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NEWS FLASH!

Just received word that Sara Winslow will replace Pres Pate on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council! Pres was the incumbent, but the list of three nominees that were sent by the governor did not include his name. Sara is biologist who worked for the Division of Marine Fisheries until she retired as the northern district manager for the Fisheries Management section.

JERRY'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Big news this week from Raleigh is the Senate passing its budget, so now the House and Senate budget conferees will meet in private to hammer home their differences. On particular note in the Senate budget is the following:

- Supports three initiatives related to Oyster development (cultch planting, oyster sanctuaries, and oyster research to develop North Carolina oyster brood stock to provide seed for aquaculture) totaling just over \$2 million over the biennium.
- Requires the Division of Marine Fisheries to create a proposal to open certain areas of the Core Sound to shellfish cultivation leasing. There are some very lucrative lease sites in the Core Sound but cannot be used due to a lease moratorium law.
- Amends the Senator Jean Preston Marine Shellfish Sanctuary. It requires the Division to develop a plan to construct and manage additional oyster habitat and requires that the new sanctuaries along with existing oyster sanctuaries be included in the Senator Jean Preston Oyster Sanctuary Network. Amends current statute to allow a shellfish cultivation lease survey to be produced by using global positioning system data.
- Reforms the shellfish cultivation leasing process to which renewal leases would be issued for a period of 10 years, instead of 5 years.
- Establishes the Blue Ribbon Oyster Panel, a stakeholder working group to study and advance efforts to ecologically restore the resource and achieve economic stability of the shellfish aquaculture industry.
- Stops the authorization of a Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) between our state Marine Patrol inspectors and the law enforcement branch of the National Marine Fisheries Service.
- Amends the for-hire coastal recreation fishing licenses to a voluntary requirement to keep a logbook of "catch" and "effort". It delays any such reporting until January 01, 2016, and requires the creation of a stakeholder's logbook advisory group. Also, the Division of Marine Fisheries would be required to institute a 12 month implementation process.
- Places a one year moratorium on any temporary supplemental management process to our state's fishery management plans. While also directing the Marine Fisheries Commission to study its procedures, and to submit the report no later than May 1, 2016, to the General Assembly.

I will offer some comments regarding Thursday's MFC southern flounder public hearing next week.

OAK ISLAND REQUESTS DMF BAN SHARK FISHING

“The Division of Marine Fisheries will be meeting with the coastal towns over the next couple of weeks to see if we can come up with an ordinance or policy to help govern shark fishing,” said Tim Holloman, the Town Manager of Oak Island.

Dr. Louis Daniel with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries said they do not want to ban shark fishing, but they do want to discuss some common sense measures that could be put in place to help keep the beaches safe.

He said they will “address some of these real concerns that are being expressed not only in Oak Island, but throughout the coastal beaches of North Carolina.” They will also “try to work with these municipalities to come up with some common sense measures that they can try to implement on their own but at the same time bring the issue up in front of the Marine Fisheries Commission, who is the rule making body of the Marine Fisheries, and who makes these decisions for some future action that could help resolve these complaints and concerns we have heard.”

[Read the full story.](#)

COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF ATLANTIC DOLPHIN CLOSES JUNE 24

The commercial harvest of Atlantic dolphin from Maine through the east coast of Florida will be closed, effective 12:01 a.m. (local time), June 24 , 2015 . Commercial harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2016. Reports indicate that landings are approaching the 2015 catch limit for the commercial sector.

The operator of a vessel with a federal commercial permit for dolphin-wahoo that is landing dolphin for sale must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such dolphin prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time), June 24, 2015. The prohibition on sale does not apply to sale or purchase of dolphin that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time), June 24, 2015, and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor. During the closure:

- Harvest/possession of dolphin is limited to the recreational bag and possession limits.
- Sale and purchase of dolphin is prohibited.
- The closure applies in both state and federal waters.

COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF JACKS IN SOUTH ATLANTIC CLOSES JUNE 23

Commercial harvest of jacks in South Atlantic waters will close, at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on June 23, 2015. Commercial harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2016. The jacks complex is comprised of the following species: almaco jack, banded rudderfish, and lesser amberjack. The 2015 commercial catch limit is 189,422 pounds whole weight. Reports indicate that landings are approaching the 2015 catch limit for the commercial sector. The operator of a vessel with a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper that is landing jacks for sale must have

landed and bartered, traded, or sold such jacks prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time), June 23, 2015. The prohibition on sale does not apply to sale or purchase of jacks that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time), June 23, 2015, and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor. During the closure:

- Harvest or possession of jacks is limited to the recreational bag and possession limits.
- Sale and purchase of jacks is prohibited.
- The closure applies in both state and federal waters.

PROPOSED RULE FOR INCREASED BLUEFIN QUOTAS ANNOUNCED

This proposed rule would modify the baseline U.S. quota and subquotas, which would be effective for the 2015 fishing year and annually until changed, for instance as a result of a new western Atlantic bluefin tuna ICCAT recommendation. For details, see the [news release](#).

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 25 at 10 a.m. - Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Steering Committee Meeting, DENR Regional Office, 943 Washington Square Mall, Washington

PROCLAMATIONS:

[CRAB TRAWLING AND TAKING SHRIMP WITH NETS - SOUTHERN AREAS](#)

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