

WEEKLY UPDATE: 3/20/2015
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
Phone: (252) 745-0225 - www.ncfish.org
Jerry Schill, President: jerryschill@ncfish.org Cell: 252-361-3015
Lauren Morris, Membership/Operations Manager:
laurenmorris@ncfish.org Cell: 252-725-2468

NC CATCH ANNUAL SUMMIT:



NC CATCH
REAL LOCAL SEAFOOD

Fishermen, seafood dealers, seafood restaurateurs, marketers and other involved in catching, growing, buying and selling North Carolina seafood are encouraged to register now to join NC Catch and this year's host, the Ocracoke Working Watermen's Association at the Summit. Registration is free and open to anyone working in or interested in North Carolina's local seafood industry.

NOAA ANNOUNCES GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER RECREATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

NOAA Fisheries announces a final rule that adds two long-term recreational accountability measures for red snapper. Accountability measures reduce the chances the harvest will exceed the quota, and if the quota is exceeded, take corrective action. The final rule will be effective April 20. For more information see [the news release](#).

MAFMC TILEFISH MONITORING COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

The MAFMC Tilefish Monitoring Committee will hold a public meeting to review, and if necessary, revise the current management measures designed to achieve the recommended Golden Tilefish catch and landings limits for 2016/2017. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2015 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The meeting will be held via webinar with a telephone-only connection option. For information on how to participate see the [news release](#).

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

BOEM has scheduled public meetings in several states beginning March 31 through April 9 to answer questions and provide stakeholders with information on Geological and Geophysical activities in the Atlantic. The North Carolina meetings will be held April 7 at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside from 3-4:30 p.m. and from 5:30-7 p.m. For more information see the [news release](#).

SOUTHERN FLOUNDER UPDATE:

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources secretary has given the commission his approval to

begin the development of a supplement to the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan. This means the division has begun drafting an issue paper to present to the MFC at its next business meeting May 20-22 in New Bern. DMF will likely include the information on how to achieve a 25-60 percent catch reduction requested by the commission in this paper. Once the MFC has considered the issue paper, it has three options: move forward with a supplement, reject the supplement, or initiate an amendment. Should the MFC continue to pursue a supplement, the next step is a public comment period of at least 30 days. If the commission initiates an amendment the chairman will appoint an advisory committee and the division will begin drafting the document. That process usually takes one or two years - depending on whether there are rule changes. The commission could elect to end the process completely, but that is not expected. If a change in management is necessary for the health of the stock, NCFA supports an amendment to the plan which will thoughtfully and responsibly address the issue.

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 26 - Pamlico County Fishermen's Association Meeting, Goose Island Community Center located at 51 Hobucken School Rd., Hobucken.

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

PROCLAMATIONS

[STRIPED BASS SEASON - COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS - INTERNAL COASTAL WATERS OF CARTERET, CRAVEN, BEAUFORT, AND PAMLICO COUNTIES, PUNGO RIVER, WEST BAY, PAMLICO SOUND](#)

[GILL NETS- WESTERN PAMLICO SOUND AND RIVERS](#)

[STRIPED BASS SEASON - COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS - ALBEMARLE SOUND MANAGEMENT AREA](#)