

WEEKLY UPDATE: 5/16/2016
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
Phone: (252) 633-NCFA (6232)
www.ncfish.org
Jerry Schill, President: jerryschill@ncfish.org; ext. 100
David Bush, Fisheries Biologist: davidbush@ncfish.org; ext. 102
Peggy Page, Accounting: peggy@ncfish.org; ext. 103

CCFA FISH FRY!

The Carteret County Fishermen's Association will have their Annual Fish Fry & Bake Sale on Saturday, May 21st, at the Crissie Wright Lodge from 11:00am till 6:00pm.

\$10.00 per plate.

If you are Down East, you should stop in. If you have no plans to be Down East on that day, you need to change your plans! The food is great, but the conversations are better! Almost better than dessert! Bring your cameras. Lots of Facebook picture posting opportunities available.

MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION TO MEET!

The MFC will meet this week, beginning with a public comment/question period on Wednesday, (TOMORROW!) evening, with another opportunity for public comment on Thursday morning. That will be followed by their business meeting till about noon on Friday.

The meeting will be at the Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City. See the full agenda here:
<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/05-2016-briefing-book>

Although not on the agenda, we've heard that the CCA is pushing for yet another supplement, this time to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan.

There are several very important issues to be covered at this meeting including: Blue Crab Traffic Light Assessment; Total Allowable Landings for Southern Flounder pound net fishery; Cobia; Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4 and Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2.

There will also be updates on stock assessments for Red Drum and Weakfish.

We encourage fishermen to attend!

JERRY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEWS:

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

Rep. Billy Richardson from Fayetteville, introduced HB-1122. The title of the bill is "Limit Marine Net Fishing", but that's a deceiving title. It's a net ban bill!

The bill was originally referred to the House Wildlife Resources Committee, but last Thursday it was re-referred to the House Rules Committee. In many cases, that's where bills go to die, but that does not mean this bill is dead. It can be brought out at any time, although it does not seem likely based on my talks with legislators.

SB-871; ENCOURAGE MARINE AQUACULTURE;

There was no action on the bill this week.

Primary Sponsors are Senators Bill Cook, Norman Sanderson and Jerry Tillman, with Senator McInnis also as a sponsor. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources. Part of the bill includes a provision charging the Division of Marine Fisheries to review the River Herring Fishery Management Plan and report no later than December 15, 2016, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources regarding the continuing validity and scientific basis for the continued status of both species as "overfished." If the Division does not have an adequate scientific basis to review the status of both species, then the report should include cost estimates for the restoration of spawning and nursery area surveys and age composition work for all coastal streams within the State that historically contained significant river herring fisheries.

NEW DMF DIRECTOR MEETS WITH NCFA:

DMF Director, Braxton Davis, asked to meet with NCFA. The two-hour meeting took place on Monday, May 9th, at the NCFA office in New Bern. Attending were Braxton Davis of DMF, and Brent Fulcher, Jerry Schill and David Bush of NCFA. It was a very encouraging and productive meeting.

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.

May 18-20; MFC meeting; Civic Center; Morehead City

May 21; 11:00am to 6:00pm CCFA Fish Fry; Crissy Wright Lodge in Smyrna

June 1; 5:00pm; DMF JEA Advisory Group; Ag Extension; New Bern

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

June 14-16; MAFMC meeting; Newark, DE