

WEEKLY UPDATE: 5/30/2016
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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JEA ADVISORS MEET ON WEDNESDAY EVENING:

The 10 member JEA advisory group will meet on Wednesday evening at 5:00pm at the Cooperative Extension office in New Bern. There will be an opportunity for public comment.

SUN JOURNAL ARTICLES AND POLL:

The New Bern Sun Journal recently had a front page article about the net ban bill, followed by an article by their outdoor writer, Ed Wall, on May 26th. Links to both are below. Please take the time to read the articles. In the case of Ed Wall's Outdoor column, he badly misquoted me and I will respond to it. Take the time, after reading the articles, to post your thoughts. See my other comments on the issue below.

In addition, the Sun Journal is conducting a poll on a net ban. You may have to look hard to find it, but it's on their home page: www.newbernsj.com Please take the time to vote NO on the net ban!

You can see the article here:

<http://www.newbernsj.com/article/20160522/news/160529725>

The sports article can be seen here:

<http://www.newbernsj.com/sports/20160524/outdoors-column-fisheries-should-be-managed-for-all---by-all>

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.

HOUSE PASSES BUDGET; NOW IN THE SENATE:

The Senate continues its work on the budget.

FISH STUFF:

There are some discussions going on in the General Assembly about fisheries issues. Typically, the controversial issues are avoided in the short session. It's expected that a series of meetings will be held between the short session and long session that could lead to a revision or complete rewrite of the Fisheries Reform Act. In the meantime, we continue to work with legislators on a few issues for the short session while assuring

nothing negative comes up unexpectedly.

OTHER COMMENTS FROM JERRY:

As noted above, there have been a couple of articles written in the New Bern Sun Journal about the net ban bill that was introduced in the General Assembly. After reading the articles, if you have strong thoughts on the issue, please make a comment on their website. Better yet, submit a letter to the editor. Don't just rant about it, be proactive about it. In both cases, you can comment online under that article.

NCFA BOARD TO MEET:

The NCFA's Board of Directors will meet this coming Monday, June 6th, at noon at the Civic Center in Washington, NC. Special guests will include DMF Director Braxton Davis and Rep. John Bell, who chairs the Select Committee on Wildlife Resources.

WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION:

from David Bush

In order to assist folks in dealing with and understanding the processes of fisheries science and management, as well as to promote collaboration between commercial fishermen and recreational anglers, I am soliciting interest in an educational workshop to be put on by NCFA at no cost to those attending. The workshop(s) will most likely be held late this summer and the specific details such as location, timeline and presenters will be determined based on the interest level of those who might participate. I imagine it to be possibly a one-day workshop, potentially held at multiple locations and dates, depending on interest. If you have been in the business for a while and feel you are sufficiently familiar, it might be of benefit to send one or two of your senior employees. A few of the general topics include the basics on gathering data, producing an assessment, the role of science in management, and developing regulations through the council and commission processes. This will be a great opportunity to better learn the process and learn from one another. There are a few familiar faces in the science world that have already expressed interest, and I would expect that I would be able to get a few council or commission members to present as well. Please contact me with your thoughts about suggested time frames and to provide contact information for you or anyone else from your organization that would like to attend.

David Bush: davidbush@ncfish.org or 910-777-1605

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

June 6; Noon; NCFA Board of Directors; Civic Center; Washington, NC

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

June 14-16; MAFMC meeting; Newark, DE