

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 1/30/2015**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**  
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**On behalf of NCFA's Board of Directors, Members and Staff, we offer our most sincere condolences and prayers to the family of Janice Smith.**

Janice Mason Smith, 84, of Atlantic, died Wednesday, January 28, 2015, at Snug Harbor on Nelson Bay, Sea Level.

Her funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 31, at the Atlantic Missionary Baptist Church with the Rev. Michael Fields, the Rev. Terry McInnis, and the Rev. Jimmy Mercer officiating. The interment will follow at the Atlantic Community Cemetery.

Born on March 20, 1930 in Stacy, NC where she was raised, she was the only child of Myron and Lillian Fulcher Mason. She was married to the late William Ellis Smith for 50 years with whom she raised 3 children. Together they co-owned Luther L. Smith & Son, Inc. Fish House. She was a founding member of the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, former treasurer of the North Carolina Fisheries Association, and was active in the Carteret County Republican Party.

She is survived by her daughter, Myron Ann Smith of Raleigh; son, Charles Dean Smith and wife, Donna of Atlantic; daughter-in-law, Tweedles Smith Harkey of Stacy; grandchildren, Leslie Smith Daniels and husband, Sheldon, of Bettie, Kimberly Smith LeMay and husband, Charles, of Atlantic, Kathryn Smith Chadwick and husband, Chris, of Stacy, Charles Dean Smith, Jr. of New Bern, and William Harrison Smith of Atlantic; great-grandchildren, Taylor Martin Daniels, Catherine Caroline Daniels, Emily Grayson LeMay, William Christopher Chadwick, and Larrington Lorraine Chadwick; sister-in-law, Alma Nelson of Atlantic.

In addition to her parents and husband, her son, William Ellis Smith, Jr., preceded her in death.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 30, at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, 1785 Island Road, Harkers Island.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the North Carolina Fisheries Association, P. O. Box 335, Bayboro, NC 28515 or Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, P. O. Box 556, Harkers Island, NC 28531.

The family would like to thank Dr. James J. Crosswell, Jr., the staff of Snug Harbor on Nelson Bay, and her caregivers, Wendi Gordon, Treva Nelson, Becky Paul, Anne Pittman, Glenda Vick, and Becky Wells for the excellent care they provided.

**COMMENTS FROM JERRY:**

I first met Billy & Janice Smith in 1985 when I was selling memberships to an national organization. I was working in the Down East area of Carteret County at the time. A few months later I was a candidate for the North Carolina Senate and campaigned in Carteret, Craven and Pamlico counties. Whenever I attended any Republican campaign event in Carteret County, Billy & Janice were there. I didn't get elected in 1986, but I met many folks who were involved in the fishing industry, and as a result, they encouraged me to interview for a job as Executive Director of the North Carolina Fisheries Association, which I did, and was hired in 1987. Billy Smith was on the group's Board of Directors, and Janice went with him to just about all of the meetings.

Billy was one of the original organizers of NCFA in 1952 and served until his death in 1996. Janice replaced him on the Board and when she was ill and could no longer serve, their granddaughter, Leslie Daniels was called upon to fill the role, and she currently serves as the group's Treasurer.

I find it very difficult to talk Janice without talking about Billy, or vice-versa. Neither one published a book but they certainly wrote a book about marriage by their example. I guess the same could be true about business. There is a tendency for us to look at successful people as though their success just "happened". Well, it doesn't. They knew all about work and commitment. To be a success at marriage or business, it takes both.

Both of their sons, William Ellis and Dean, were active in the fish business. It was a devastating loss when William Ellis died in an accident at a fish house in Wanchese in 1991. He was not only a key part of the family business, but was also very active with the North Carolina Fisheries Association. It was William Ellis Smith that pushed for and eventually succeeded in starting a program that would provide the financial support needed to keep the struggling non-profit group afloat. That program, we call it the "half percent program", is still in place today.

When Billy died in a fishing accident in 1996, it seemed at the time to be the ultimate death blow to commercial fishing in North Carolina. Billy was the key to keeping it all running, and while we knew it was a tremendous loss when William Ellis died just 5 years before, we knew with Billy on the scene everything would be alright. Now, he was gone too. But little did we know about the resolve of his widow, Janice Smith!

Before I left the Smith house after Billy's funeral, I gave Janice a hug and she said I'll see you at the meeting this evening. I said "What are you talking about?" I guess my words were accompanied by a certain "look" that she didn't like because she said it again as though that was the end of the discussion! There was a fisheries meeting at the Carteret Community College that evening and she was going, she said. From experience, I knew not to argue with Janice. Oh, you could argue for the entertainment value but you certainly wouldn't win the argument!

Before Billy died, I remember a couple of times that Janice went to some places without Billy, and that was when our Auxiliary from Pamlico County chartered a bus to go to Washington DC to protest about fisheries policies and to talk to our elected officials. Janice rode on that bus and participated in the protests and talking to our elected officials and their staffs. Since I had to be in DC earlier, I did not ride on the bus with all of those women, but I've heard some stories that are accompanied by a lot of laughter! I wouldn't dare repeat what I've heard about those bus trips!

The Pamlico Auxiliary was made up primarily of wives, girlfriends, daughters, grandmothers, nieces or friends of commercial fishermen and most were from Pamlico County. Janice felt right at home with them and somewhere I have pictures from those two trips in the early 90s.

Now that Janice is gone, is all lost? Heaven's no! By the example that Billy & Janice have shown in their marriage, family and businesses, they built the foundation on solid rock. If we continue to use that example as a guide, those of us remaining can continue their legacy. We owe it to ourselves to be sure, but certainly to their memory.

God bless,  
Jerry

#### **MAFMC ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS:**

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council is accepting applications from qualified individuals to serve on seven advisory panels. [Advisory panels](#) provide information and recommendations to the Council during the development of fishery management plans, amendments, specifications, and management measures. **Current**

**advisers must apply to be reappointed.** Applications are due by Feb. 27. For more information see [the news release](#).

**F/V DRILL CONDUCTOR WORKSHOPS IN NC:**

AMSEA is conducting two Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor workshops in North Carolina free to commercial fishermen.

- Feb. 3 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. - Wanchese Community Building, 295 Old Schoolhouse Rd.
- Feb. 5 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. - Hatteras Village Civic Center, 56658 NC Hwy 12

**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.*

**Feb. 2 at 6 p.m.** - Oyster and Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee, DENR Regional Office, 943 Washington Square Mall, Washington, NC

**Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m.** - Albemarle Fishermen's Association, Leon Nixon Catering, Edenton

**Feb. 3-5** - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Winter Meeting, The Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria, VA

**Feb. 10-12** - Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Doubletree by Hilton Raleigh Brownstone University, 1707 Hillsborough St., Raleigh

**Feb. 18-20** - Marine Fisheries Commission Business Meeting, Hilton Wilmington Riverside, 301 North Water St., Wilmington, NC

**March 2-6** - South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, The King and Prince Resort, 201 Arnold Rd., St. Simons Island, GA

[MFC/DMF Meeting Schedule](#)

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

[BLACK SEA BASS – COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS –ATLANTIC OCEAN- NORTH OF CAPE HATTERAS](#)

[FLOUNDER – COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS - ATLANTIC OCEAN](#)