

WEEKLY UPDATE: 1/19/2018
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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DMF SHRIMP BYCATCH WORKSHOP SET

The Division of Marine Fisheries will hold a Shrimp Bycatch Workshop on Monday, January 22nd from 10:00 until 2:00 at the Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern.

NCFA SETS DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for NCFA will be held on Monday, January 22nd at the Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern. This meeting is to elect one third of the Board and allows members to recommend NCFA's priorities for the coming year. Board members up for reconsideration for another three-year term are: AREA ONE: Mike Blanton; AREA SEVEN: Doug Todd; AT-LARGE: Michael (Jimbo) Ireland; and AT-LARGE: Ross Butler.

If you are a member of NCFA, you are strongly encouraged to attend this Annual meeting. If you cannot attend, please email or fax your proxy to the office. Fax number: 252-726-6200 or email aundrea@ncfish.org.

MARINE FISHERIES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS CHANGING COMMERCIAL LICENSE CRITERIA Proposal would change definition of a commercial fisherman

The Committee, made up of Chairman Sammy Corbett, and Commission members Chuck Laughridge and Mike Wicker, would reduce the numbers of commercial fishermen by tightening the ability to qualify through a minimum percentage of earned income or a minimum number of trip tickets per year. The Committee met last week with the wheels greased to a pre-determined outcome. No public comment was allowed.

Their proposal now goes to the full Marine Fisheries Commission for its consideration at their next meeting February 14 & 15 in Wrightsville Beach at the Blockade Runner. If approved by the full Commission, which is most likely considering the current imbalance on the Commission, the measure must go to the General Assembly for approval.

This action highlights a couple of points: the need for a study commission similar to the former Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood & Aquaculture and the need for a balanced Marine Fisheries Commission.

This issue was studied in depth by the Moratorium Steering Committee prior to the passage of the Fisheries Reform Act in 1997, and was studied again by the Commission on other occasions. The result was to leave it alone.

Fishermen are encouraged to attend the public comment session on the evening of February 14th in Wrightsville Beach to let their views known. If you would rather write your thoughts to the Commission, they must be received by February 9th. You can email to CommercialLicensesComments@ncdenr.gov

Bill Hitchcock wrote an excellent opinion piece on this subject, so if you have not seen it, either reply to this message or call the NCFA office and we'll get it to you.

CALENDAR

Jan 22, 2018; 10 till 2; DMF Shrimp Bycatch Workshop; Riverfront Convention Center; New Bern

Jan 22, 2018; 2:00pm; NCFA Annual Meeting; Riverfront Convention Center; New Bern

Feb. 14 & 15, 2018; NC MFC; Blockade Runner, Wrightsville Beach

CONGRESSMAN WALTER JONES CALL FOR TOUGH MEASURES ON SHRIMP IMPORTS

Congressman Walter B. Jones (NC-3) is continuing his long-standing fight to level the playing field for shrimping families in Eastern North Carolina and across the country. In his latest move, Jones is calling for foreign shrimp to be part of a tough new federal monitoring program to prevent the dumping of illegal shrimp into the American market.

Several congressman signed a letter sent last week and urged U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross to include shrimp in the Seafood Import Monitoring Program.

“The U.S. shrimp industry is a very critical part of the Gulf and South Atlantic economies but it is slowly eroding as we allow Asian and South American countries to continue their illegal dumping activities,” said Jones and his colleagues.



Glenn Skinner, Dewey Hemilright, Congressman Walter Jones & Jerry Schill
Taken during NCFA's Washington DC trip last week
Photo by Josh Bowlen, Chief of Staff for Congressman Jones



**Jim McCleskey, Director of Governor Cooper's Washington Office with Dewey Hemilright & Glenn Skinner
Taken by Jerry Schill at NCFA's Washington DC trip last week**
