

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 10/20/2017**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**  
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**FISHERMEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN IMPORTANT HEALTH STUDY!**  
**Study is for commercial fishermen OR spouses!**

Sheridan Stanley made a presentation to NCFA's Board of Directors at their meeting in New Bern in July. He explained his research study as noted below. Please take the time to click on the website and participate in this very important study!

Sheridan is working to identify, and then, to address the health and safety risks of North Carolina working watermen, their families, and their coastal communities. The goal is to reduce injury and illness by conducting research that leads to practical solutions and educational approaches. As a first step, the Institute is disseminating a survey to all North Carolina working watermen and their spouses. The survey seeks to gather information about health problems, common fishing-related injuries, access to health care, and diet. With **guidance from working watermen**, the information will be used to develop an educational program related to fishing health and safety.

Below is the information provided when you click on the site for the study:

You are being invited to participate in a research study titled "NC Fisherman Health and Safety" being conducted by Sheridan Stanley, a Master of Public Health student working with the North Carolina Agromedicine Institute. The Institute is a partnership of East Carolina University, NC Agricultural & Technical State University and NC State University whose mission is to promote the health and safety of farmers, fishermen and foresters through research, prevention/education and education/outreach.

The goal of the study is to gather information from up to 150 North Carolina fishermen or their spouses using a short survey. **The survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.** It is our hope that information gained through the survey will assist us to better understand the health and safety risks associated with fishing.

**Your responses will be confidential** and no data will be collected that will allow you to be identified. Your participation in the study is completely voluntary. You may choose not to answer any or all questions, and you may stop at any time. There is no penalty for not participating.

Please call Sheridan Stanley at 252-548-1451 or Dr. Robin Tutor-Marcom at 252-744-1008 for any research related questions. Or you can email Sheridan at: [stanleys16@students.ecu.edu](mailto:stanleys16@students.ecu.edu).

Thank you in advance for your help!

[Click here for health study for fishermen and/or spouses.](#)

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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- The General Assembly met for a short time last week to deal with some veto issues. No fisheries issues were on the agenda. They are scheduled for session in January but may also be going back in November.
  - I attended the opening ceremonies for the 150<sup>th</sup> State Fair a week ago, where Commissioner Troxler dedicated and officially named the Fair Administrative Building for Wesley Wyatt, who has been the manager at the State Fair for a very long time.
  - NCFA Biologist David Bush attended the annual meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission this week in Norfolk. James Gilmore, Jr. of New York was elected as ASMFC Chairman and Patrick Keliher of Maine as Vice Chairman.
  - NCFA's Brent Fulcher, Glenn Skinner & Jerry Schill met with Josh Bowlen in New Bern this week to discuss several federal issues. Josh is the Chief of Staff for Congressman Walter B. Jones, Jr.
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Jerry Schill, Brent Fulcher, Glenn Skinner, Josh Bowlen

The ASMFC put out a press release about sturgeon this week that included the following:

Atlantic sturgeon are not well monitored by existing fishery-independent data collection and bycatch observer programs, and landings information does not exist after 1998 due to implementation of a coastwide moratorium. Because of this, **Atlantic sturgeon are considered a “data-poor” species** which hindered the Stock Assessment Subcommittee’s ability to use complex statistical stock assessment models... (Emphasis added.)

Why, of course they’re a “data-poor” species because the best data is acquired by commercial fishing, and a moratorium is in place! The same is true for the moratorium on herring! No fishing, so no data! This is only meant to point out that the more we keep commercial fishermen from fishing, the less data we have to use for real conservation decisions.

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**FROM THE DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES:**

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**Advisory committee meetings to focus on cobia management measures** - Three advisory committees to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission will meet on separate dates in October to discuss issues related to the cobia fishery.

Details about the meetings were in last week's Update, so please note the dates and times in the Calendar below.

For more information, contact Steve Poland, cobia staff lead with the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, at 252-808-8159 or [Steve.Poland@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Steve.Poland@ncdenr.gov).

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## **CALENDAR**

Oct 24; 6:00pm MFC Northern Advisory Committee; Dare County Complex; Manteo, NC

Oct 25; 6:00pm MFC Southern Advisory Committee; Cardinal Drive; Wilmington, NC

Oct 26; 6:00pm MFC Finfish Advisory Committee; DMF District Office; Morehead City, NC

Nov 8; Noon; NCFA Board of Directors; Civic Center; Washington, NC

Nov 15-16; NC Marine Fisheries Commission; Kitty Hawk

Dec 4 – 8; South Atlantic Council; Doubletree; Atlantic Beach, NC

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

Dec 11 – 14; Mid Atlantic Council; Westin Annapolis; Annapolis, MD

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