

WEEKLY UPDATE: 1/2/2017
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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COMMERCIAL FISHING RESOURCE FUNDING COMMITTEE MEETING is TOMORROW:

Meeting is set for Wednesday, January 4, 2017, beginning at noon.
Location: DEQ Regional Office at the Mall in Washington, NC

Agenda includes the development of a draft memorandum of understanding and the consideration of options for the Commercial Fishing Resource Fund.

This group was established through legislation by the North Carolina General Assembly and consists of the following members:

Gilbert Baccus, Chairman, Albemarle Fishermen's Association
Benny O'Neal, North Carolina Fisheries Association
Andrew Berry, North Carolina Watermen United
Ernie Doshier, Ocracoke Working Watermen's Association
Bill Hooper, Carteret County Waterman's Association
Steve Parrish, Brunswick County Fishermen's Association

This meeting will only include the industry component of the group. The full group includes the following members of the Marine Fisheries Commission: Sammy Corbett, Chairman; Alison Willis and Janet Rose.

GOVERNOR COOPER APPOINTS DEQ SECRETARY:

Governor Roy Cooper announced today his selection for Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality. He is Michael Regan, who is a clean energy proponent, having spent eight years as the National Director of Energy Efficiency Southeast Climate & Energy Policy at the Environmental Defense Fund. He worked as Southeast regional director of EDF.

Mr. Regan is subject to confirmation by the N.C. Senate.



Michael Regan

NCFA ANNUAL MEETING DATE SET FOR JANUARY 9, 2017:

NCFA's Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2017, beginning at 3:00pm at the Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern. One of the items on our agenda is the election of our Board of Directors and Officers. Board members serve terms of 3 years, with one third of the board standing for election each year. This year the following are up:

Area Four: Henry Daniels
Area Five: Wesley Potter
Area Six: Glenn Skinner
At-Large: Brent Fulcher

After the Board election, the following positions will be filled for a term of one year:

Board Chairman: currently Brent Fulcher
Board Vice-Chairman: currently Glenn Skinner

President/Corporate Secretary: currently Jerry Schill
Treasurer: currently Leslie Daniels

The Nominating Committee will present a slate for the above positions. Nominations can also be made from the floor.

SHRIMP BYCATCH REDUCTION INDUSTRY WORKGROUP TO MEET:

The Shrimp Bycatch Reduction Industry Workgroup will meet at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 9 at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, located at 203 S. Front St. in New Bern.

The committee will receive an update on 2016 testing of bycatch reduction gears and prioritize new gears for field tests in 2017.

For more information, contact Kevin Brown, gear development biologist with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, at 252 808 8089.

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017;

Purpose is to take comments on proposal to restrict shrimp trawling

The meeting will be conducted by the Marine Fisheries Commission to take public comment on the North Carolina Wildlife Federation's Petition for Rulemaking. The following Advisory Committees will hear comments from the public:

Finfish; Shellfish/Crustacean; Habitat and Water Quality; Northern Regional; Southern Regional

The subject of this may be to take comment on the recently filed Petition for Rulemaking by the North Carolina Wildlife Federation regarding severe restrictions on shrimping, but as far as we're concerned, this is a referendum on the future of commercial fishing in North Carolina! Put this date on your calendar! Set aside the whole day for it! Again, the meeting begins at 12:30pm.

The meeting will be held at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, beginning at 12:30pm.
Contact Nancy Fish at DMF: 252-808-8021

ALL COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES, ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES AND LOVERS OF SHRIMP AND ALL SEAFOOD ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

SOUTHERN FLOUNDER LAWSUIT:

We would like to thank all of you who have donated to the Southern Flounder Fund so far. We will send a special update out soon listing those who have contributed to the fund.

As noted previously, we have had two hearings on our lawsuit on southern flounder before two judges. Both judges ruled in our favor. However, it's not over! There will be a hearing at some point and we need to be prepared!

Whether you are a commercial fisherman, dealer, or recreational fisherman, if you are pleased that we took this legal action and your season did not close on October 16th as the MFC planned, we need your help!

Checks can be made payable to:

NCFA Southern Flounder Fund
2807 Neuse Blvd.; Suite 11
New Bern, NC 28562

CALENDAR

Jan 4, 2017; Commercial Fishing Resource Funding Cmte; Noon; DEQ Regional Office; Washington NC
Jan 9, 2017; Shrimp Industry Bycatch Reduction Workgroup; 10:30am; Convention Center; New Bern, NC
Jan 9, 2017: NCFA's Annual Meeting; 3:00pm; Riverfront Convention Center; New Bern, NC
Jan 17, 2017; Shrimp Petition Hearing; 12:30pm; Riverfront Convention Center; New Bern, NC