

WEEKLY UPDATE: 10/27/2017
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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**FROM THE CURRENT ISSUE OF TRADEWINDS:
THE INTERNET...by Brent Fulcher**

The internet can be a very enlightening tool at times. It amazes me when I read comments from those who are opposed to commercial fishermen. When they post on certain sites that are known for their anti-commercial fishing rhetoric, there are no fish left in the ocean. The sky is falling, and those bad commercial fishermen are to blame. At times they go so far as mention specific names as the boogymen that are to blame for their "crisis" in North Carolina's fisheries. However, some of those critics also have fishing businesses with their own websites, and if you take the time to read what they have to say, it's 180 degrees different from what they're saying on their anti-commercial sites with their conspiratorial buddies.

For example, Tom Roller has been a frequent contributor to a site that has been highly critical of commercial fishing in general and of the North Carolina Fisheries Association in particular. Tom owns Waterdog Guide Service and has his own website as well. Over several months he rails about how bad things are in our state and why regulations need to be changed or we'll have nothing in the water to catch. In a documentary in 2015 where he advocates for more regulations on commercial fishing, he states that "our waters are declining, and they're declining greatly". He said he easily caught 10 southern flounder a day in the past, and now they're almost gone.

On a blog he started in 2014, he gives this background:

Capt. Tom Roller is a full time inshore fishing guide based out of Beaufort, North Carolina. He has spent the last 15 years advocating for better fisheries management in North Carolina and the removal of destructive fishing gears like estuarine gill nets.

NC fisheries management is overflowing with corruption at the hands of commercial fishing interests, their lobbyists and their language of misinformation. This site aims to help expose these mistruths. This site is dedicated to the transparency of the politics and news within North Carolina State marine fisheries. Our intent is to notify citizens of

important issues that pertain to marine fisheries management in North Carolina.

He recently posted this though, on his website:

2017 remains one of the best all around inshore fishing years of my career - excellent speckled trout, red drum of all sizes (from rats to slots to the old drum) and a respectable flounder fishing. I've fished literally every second I could and have included some pics from a couple of my "Busman's holidays." BTW - excellent topwater speckled trout bite lately! And drum! Do not miss out, come down and experience some of North Carolina's best inshore fishing in years with one of the crystal coast's most experienced guides (16 years of full time experience).

So we went from a tremendous decline in fisheries in 2014/2015 to "...one of the best all around inshore fishing years of my career..." in a mere two years!

The moral of this story is be diligent when you read all of the anti commercial fishing rhetoric. Don't just drink the Kool Aid...do your homework!

OVERFISHING IS NO LONGER THE MAJOR THREAT...

"What I'm going to say in my testimony is that overfishing is no longer the major threat to the sustainability of our oceans or biodiversity," Hilborn said in an interview. "My first line on Tuesday is going to be that we have really fixed our fisheries by having fisheries management follow science advice — and if you stop doing that, you're in trouble."

To see the entire article about Ray Hilborn, go here:

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060064291>

NMFS GIVES SENATOR BAD INFO ON SHARK FINNING

"A federal agency said on Thursday that it made a mistake with a key piece of data it gave to U.S. Sen. Cory Booker as he was building a case to shut down America's shark fin trade. Booker, a New Jersey Democrat, has cited more than 500 incidents involving complaints of shark finning in the U.S., dating back to January 2010, as cause to support shutting down the trade. But the number is actually 85."

Read more here: <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/business/article181089766.html>

CALENDAR

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

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