

WEEKLY UPDATE: 6/9/2017
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

The House Wildlife Resources Committee had a meeting on Tuesday and the only item on their agenda was H-867. It was a "discussion only" meeting. The public was allowed two minutes to give opinions on the bill, with alternating pro and con speakers. Glenn Skinner, Terry Pratt and Jerry Schill offered comments in opposition to the bill as did Pam Morris of Carteret Catch. Although not members of the committee, Representatives Beverly Boswell and Michael Speciale also spoke in opposition. NCFA Board member Mike Blanton also attended and talked to legislators after the meeting.

Speakers in favor of the bill included NC Sound Economy and the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

The Department of Environmental Quality spoke very briefly and took no position although they did advocate for more stakeholder involvement. Interestingly there was no representation from the Division of Marine Fisheries and NCFA learned they only heard about the meeting on Tuesday morning. In years past it would be unheard of to consider a bill like this without inviting the Division to provide their overview including an objective look at the status of North Carolina's fish stocks.

We previously sent out some bullet points about our concerns and included a separate sheet on stock status for context. Listening to two of the sponsors, it's quite obvious they believe the fisheries stocks in North Carolina are in terrible shape, as do the supporters of the bill.

The meeting was a bit testy, but more from the bill sponsors than the fishing public.

The Wildlife Resources Committee may have the bill on their agenda again next week, but no official notice as yet.

REMINDER ABOUT SEAFOOD LOBBY DAY!

Wednesday, June 14th! For more information: <http://ncfish.org/2017/06/1695/>

MID ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL UPDATE ON SQUID
by David Bush

MAFMC moves forward with the Squid amendment recommending the following options to the Secretary:

1C requalify current longfin squid/butterfish permits if they landed at least 10,000 pounds in any year from 1997-2013. Permits in "Confirmation of Permit History" (CPH) could requalify if they have the required landings.

2B Date common ownership by May, 2017

Entry definition: Owner(s) of record must be same.

Permits in confirmation of permit history (CPH) as of May 26, 2017 could not participate.

2C giving non-requalifiers a 5,000 trip limit.

3C to create a new limited-access incidental longfin squid permit that cannot be reacquired if dropped. Qualification years would be from 1997-2013 and require landings of at least 5,000 pounds in any one year. The initial trip limit would be 2,500 pounds. This permit would also allow incidental catch of Illex and butterfish at the designated incidental trip limit (currently 10,000 pounds for Illex and 600 pounds for butterfish).

3D to make the open-access longfin squid incidental trip limit 250 pounds

4D implementing a 250-pound trip limit for all longfin squid permits when T2 closes

5D, status quo, no changes would be made to Illex moratorium permits.

This recap covers the initial motions that were approved, but still subject to correction or editing by staff. A link to the final and detailed published motions will be provided once they become available.

CARTERET COUNTY FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS:

CCFA will be holding a fundraiser at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum on June 24, 11:30am till 6:00pm, selling shrimp burgers and hotdogs!

TRADEWINDS AT THE PRINTER

The next issue of Tradewinds will be printed and mailed the end of next week.

CALENDAR

June 12 – 16; SAFMC Meeting; Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

June 24; CCFA fundraiser; 11:30am till 6:00pm; Core Sound Waterfowl Museum

July 11; NCFA joint meeting; time and location to be announced