

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 6/1/2018**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"  
PO Box 86; Morehead City, NC 28557  
Phone: (252) 726-NCFA (6232) Fax: (252) 726-6200  
[www.ncfish.org](http://www.ncfish.org)

---

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The General Assembly is in its "short session" and is expected to be finished by the end of the month. This week there has been significant activity regarding fisheries.

**S-738, "Support Shellfish Industry"** was filed on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and sponsors are Senators Bill Cook, Norman Sanderson & Harry Brown. [S-738](#)

The above link has the original language but in a committee meeting this past Wednesday there were some changes made to it. The Senate Committee on Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources met on Wednesday to discuss the bill. No vote was taken as it was only for discussion purposes. After the Senators asked questions, Chairman Norman Sanderson opened it up for public comment with about 12 members of the public commenting.

There were several speaking in favor of the bill including some NCFA members. There were also several spoke against the bill including NCFA members. The primary concerns were over the residency requirement, the Core Sound leasing issue and the 300 acre provision.

NCFA's Executive Director Glenn Skinner and Director of Government Affairs Director Jerry Schill both spoke. Glenn said the NCFA Board has not had an opportunity to discuss the bill and therefore had no official position, although he has spoken to several members who had concerns about the three areas mentioned above. Jerry said that NCFA had members on both sides and reiterated the group had no official position but he strongly suggested that this meeting and this bill is a perfect example of why the General Assembly needs to re-establish the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood & Aquaculture so these types of issues can be vetted between legislative sessions with stakeholders sitting around the table.

The bill sponsors are working on an amendment that addresses the concerns and will more than likely discuss this bill again next week. [Senate Committee on Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources](#)

---

**H-1049, "Support Sustainable Fisheries Communities"** was filed on May 30<sup>th</sup> and sponsored by Rep. Michael Speciale and co-sponsored by Reps Beverly Boswell, Carl Ford, George Cleveland, Larry Pittman, Michelle Presnell, Mike Clampitt & Bob Steinburg. [H-1049](#)

The bill would re-establish the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood & Aquaculture, change the two at-large seats on the Marine Fisheries Commission to one recreational industry and one commercial industry and establish a moratorium on the authority of the MFC to propose and adopt rules. It **WOULD NOT IMPEDE THE STATE'S ABILITY TO MANAGE OUR COASTAL FISHERIES**, but will not allow the Commission to misuse the petition for rulemaking process or create meeting agendas that read like a Christmas wish list. It allows the Commission to meet the statutory requirements of the fishery management plan process, but allows stakeholders the time to discuss issues without fear of unfair or unnecessary rules being imposed on them.

**NCFA strongly endorses this bill!**

Further, it assures that Division of Marine Fisheries staff can concentrate on real scientific issues rather than wasting time and tax dollars to push agendas.

H-1049 has been assigned to the House Committee on Wildlife Resources: [House Wildlife Resources Committee](#)

---

**H-1063, “Commercial Fishing License Reforms”** was filed on May 31<sup>st</sup> and sponsored by Reps Larry Yarborough, Jimmy Dixon, Ted Davis, & Billy Richardson and co-sponsored by Rep. Stephen Ross. [H-1063](#) You may recall that after overwhelming opposition by commercial fishermen to ANY changes of commercial fishing licenses at an MFC meeting in Wrightsville Beach, the Commission wrote a letter to the members of the General Assembly suggesting some changes. However, this bill goes way beyond what even the MFC has recommended, as the bill would DOUBLE the fees for a Standard Commercial Fishing License from \$400 a year to \$800, DOUBLE the fees for a Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License from \$200 a year to \$400, establish a Commercial Fishing Crew License at \$100 a year for any person serving on the crew of a vessel engaged in commercial fishing, make eligibility pool reforms and ELIMINATE THE RECREATIONAL COMMERCIAL GEAR LICENSE.

**NCFA strongly OPPOSES this bill!**

H-1063 has been assigned to the House Committee on Wildlife Resources: [House Wildlife Resources Committee](#)

---

## CALENDAR

June 5 – 7; Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Philadelphia  
June 11 – 15; South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
June 13; 6:00pm; Blue Crab FMP Advisors; DEQ Regional Office; Washington, NC  
June 18; Noon; NCFA Board of Directors; Civic Center; Washington, NC