

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 4/21/2017**

**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**

**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**

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**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

CROSSOVER DEADLINE in the General Assembly is this Thursday, meaning if a bill does not make it through either the House or Senate by Thursday, the bill is dead for this session unless there is a budgetary component to the bill.

**NEW BILL: H-867; Coastal Fisheries Conservation/Economic Development**

A bill was filed late yesterday that would make significant changes in the fisheries management process in North Carolina. House bill 867, or "Coastal Fisheries Conservation/Econ. Dev.", is the name of the bill and can be found here:

[H-867](#)

The bill was referred to the House Wildlife Resources Committee. NCFA has written all of the House members in opposition to the bill. Primary sponsor is Rep. John Bell. This bill is not subject to the crossover deadline.

Updates on other fisheries related legislation:

**[H-853: Protect Striped Bass/Central Southern Area; by Reps. Richardson, Adams & Wray](#)**

Could not possess striped bass in that area by commercial fishermen, but OK to catch hook & line.

[H-853](#)

Remains in the Rules Committee.

**[H-524 Marine Aquaculture Development Act, sponsored by Rep. Beverly Boswell and Rep. Phil Shepard.](#)**

[H-524](#), identical to S-410

Referred to the House Environment Committee; was scheduled to be heard on 4/20 but the meeting was cancelled.

**[S-131: Regulatory Reform Act of 2016-2017 by Senators Wells, Cook & Sanderson](#)**

Omnibus bill with lots of non-fishing stuff, but includes making all commercial and recreational fishing license information confidential, include email addresses. Bill was passed by Senate and House but differing versions so referred to conference committee.

[S-131](#)

**[S-370: South Atlantic Federal Fisheries Resources: by Senator Rabon](#)**

Senate Resolution in opposition the federal catch shares. Senator Cook has been added as a sponsor.

[S-370](#)

Bill given a favorable report by the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Committee and the Rules Committee; on the Senate Calendar for April 24<sup>th</sup>.

[S-410: Marine Aquaculture Development Act by Senators Cook, Sanderson & Tillman](#)

S-410

Bill given a favorable report by the Senate Ag, Natural Resources & Env Committee; now to the Rules Committee.

[S-432: Delay Marine Fisheries Rule Making by Senators Sanderson, Cook & Tillman](#)

Would delay the implementation of any rules from the shrimp petition until bycatch study is finished.

S-432

Bill is in the Senate Rules Committee.

[S-434: Amend Environmental Laws 2 by Senators Sanderson, Cook & Wells](#)

An omnibus bill with fisheries related issues. You will need to read the whole bill.

[H-434 as amended in committee](#)

Bill was amended and given a favorable report in the Senate Ag, Natural Resources & Env Committee; now to Appropriations, Base Budget.

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[H-545: Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Reforms: by Reps Boswell, Millis, Pittman, Clampitt, Dulin, Harrison, Speciale, & Steinburg](#)

Would require the Marine Fisheries Commission to provide a resolution when the Commission rejects the recommendations of the advisors. Basis for this legislation is the action by the MFC in February when they rejected the overwhelming recommendations by 5 advisory committees to deny the shrimp Petition for Rulemaking.

[H-545](#)

Bill is in House Wildlife Resources Committee.

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### **CONGRATULATIONS TO RANDY & CHERYL ROBINSON!**

Randy is the President of the Brunswick County Fishermen's Association and a member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Fisheries Association. They recently were married, so NCFA's Board, members and staff offer them our most hearty congratulations and best wishes!



**Mr. & Mrs. Randy Robinson**

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### **CARTERET COUNTY FISH FRY COMING UP IN MAY!**

The Carteret County Fishermen's Association will hold their ANNUAL FISH FRY on May 18<sup>th</sup>, from 11am till 6:00pm at Wheatly Boys Tire & Auto in Otway. Plates are only \$10! Sponsorships also available so for more information, call 252-269-5020 or 252-503-0382.

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### **CALENDAR**

May 1; NCFA Board of Directors; Noon; Civic Center; Washington, NC

May 10; Joint MAFMC & ASMFC; Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Board; Alexandria, VA

May 13; CCFA Fish Fry; 11am – 6pm; Wheatly Boys in Otway; \$10 per plate

May 17 – 18; NC MFC Meeting; New Bern, NC