

WEEKLY UPDATE: 2/6/2017
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION TO MEET IN WILMINGTON:

Hotel Wilmington Riverside; February 15 & 16, 2017

The primary issue on their agenda this month is to consider the Petition for Rulemaking submitted by the Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. The meeting that was held in January in New Bern was for the purpose of several advisory groups to the MFC to hear the presentation by the petitioners and listen to the many public comments. As a result of that, all five advisory groups voted overwhelmingly to recommend to the MFC to DENY the petition. Now we'll see if the MFC heeds their recommendations or ignores them. They are not bound by law to take their advice, as they are advisors after all, but to ignore the advice considering the 37 to 4 cumulative votes, it might get some legislators to wonder why the taxpayers should pay for such an expense as the New Bern meeting. That was 84% voting to recommend to DENY the petition!

The format for this meeting will be a little different than in the past. It will begin at Noon on Wednesday, February 15th. They will begin public comment at 3:00pm, starting with the 68 that had signed up at the New Bern meeting but didn't get a chance to speak. (You can see the list of those 68 by clicking on the link below.) Public comment will go into the evening hours, possibly as late as 8:30pm or so.

The Commission will begin their Thursday session at 8:30am with consideration of the Petition. There will be no public comment on Thursday!

If you have not commented on the petition and would like to do so, you should be at the meeting on Wednesday. However, if you have no intention of speaking, it would be good for you to plan on attending the Thursday session when they deliberate on the issue and vote. If you can attend both days, that's even better.

The agenda for the meeting can be found here:

[Marine Fisheries Commission agenda](#)

Complete briefing book:

[Complete MFC meeting briefing book](#)

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

CARTERET COUNTY FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION TO MEET:

CCFA will meet on Saturday, February 11th, at 6:30pm at the Marshallberg Community Club.

Discussion will be about the upcoming MFC Meeting in Wilmington, along with making plans for this years Annual Fish Fry.

Even though things went well at the January 17 meeting in New Bern, this is NOT over!! We will need a GRAND attendance in Wilmington just like we had in New Bern.

IF YOU CARE ABOUT THIS INDUSTRY AND IT'S FUTURE, YOU SHOULD ATTEND BOTH OF THESE MEETINGS.

Also, it's time to renew annual memberships, so contact Aundrea O'Neal to renew: ccfaofnc@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM JERRY:

We had a full day on Monday as NCFA's Board of Directors met for their monthly meeting. It was the first meeting held since the passing of Steve Parrish, so it began with a tribute to Steve by Chairman Brent Fulcher and a prayer for his family by Terry Pratt.

We had excellent attendance with quite a discussion on a number of issues which will be listed in next week's update. The meeting ended with an Executive Session to discuss the internal workings of the organization.

Before the Board meeting began, I had a very cordial, introductory phone conversation with the Secretary of DEQ, Michael Regan.

Nothing of note to mention about the General Assembly, but that may change before the end of the week due to some appointments I have this week, so stay tuned.

David Bush attended the ASMFC meeting in Alexandria last week and will provide info in next week's update.

God bless,

Jerry

SOUTHERN FLOUNDER LAWSUIT:

We would like to thank all of you who have donated to the Southern Flounder Fund so far.

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

Feb 11, 2017; 6:30pm; Carteret County Fisherman's Association; Marshallberg Community Club

Feb 15-16, 2017; Marine Fisheries Commission; Hilton Riverside in Wilmington, NC

Feb 14-16, 2017; MAFMC Meeting; Kitty Hawk, NC

Feb. 15-16, 2017; NCMFC Meeting; Hilton Wilmington Riverside, Wilmington, NC