

WEEKLY UPDATE: 11/17/2017
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
Phone: (252) 726-6232

MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Secretary DENIES Commission request for supplement on striped bass!

The MFC met this week in Kitty Hawk. DEQ's Deputy Secretary John Nicholson was in attendance for the entire meeting and started off with a few comments to the Commission. He gave an update on the search for a new Director at the Division and a status report on the 3 appointments to the Commission that the Governor's office has been working on.

He also mentioned that the request from the Commission from the August meeting that the Secretary approve a supplement to the Striped Bass fishery management plan was denied, and the letter from Secretary Regan was circulated. The final paragraph of the Secretary's letter to Chairman Sammy Corbett states in part: **"After consultation with division staff and WRC Director Gordon Myers, I concluded there is insufficient data and analysis currently in existence to change course; and, because granting the requested authorization would cause further delay in the development of the FMP, I am unable to grant the Commission's request for a supplement at this time."**

The Commission had quite a discussion on cobia and passed a motion but at the urging of Billy Gorham, the prevailing side requested that the issue be brought back for discussion, and the following was approved for 2018 pending the approval of the Technical Committee:

For hire: No closure, 1 per person and 4 maximum per boat, 36" minimum.

Recreational: No closure, 2 maximum per boat, 36: minimum.

Commercial: 2 per person; 6 maximum per boat, 33" minimum.

The Commission also approved a letter to the US Secretary of Commerce supporting the current system of distributing summer flounder quota.

The Commission approved the following nominations to be forwarded to NC DEQ Secretary Michael Regan for the Governor's consideration. The Governor gives final approval for the nominations to be sent to the US Secretary of Commerce for consideration.

Mid Atlantic Council: Sara Winslow, incumbent from Hertford; Dr. Roger Rulifson of Greenville and Joseph Smith, Beaufort.

South Atlantic Council: Anna Beckwith, incumbent from Morehead City; Robert Lorenz, Wilmington and Tom Roller, Beaufort.

David Bush & Jerry Schill of NCFA attended the MFC meeting and Jerry will provide some commentary about the meeting in next week's update.

ASMFC MENHADEN MANAGEMENT

The ASMFC Menhaden Management Board met this week in Baltimore. Michelle Duval was there for DMF and Doug Brady attended as the Governor's appointee. David Bush attended as a proxy for Rep. Bob Steinburg. More details of the decisions made at this meeting will be in the next update.

NCFA BOARD MEETING on NOVEMBER 27th:

NCFA Board will meet on Monday, November 27th at Noon at the Civic Center in Washington, NC. This will be a November/December meeting.

CALENDAR

Nov 27; Noon; NCFA Board of Directors; Civic Center; Washington, NC

Dec 4 – 8; South Atlantic Council; Doubletree; Atlantic Beach, NC

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