

WEEKLY UPDATE: 7/28/2017

NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

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

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Although the “long session” ended on June 30th, the General Assembly will reconvene on Thursday, August 3rd for a special session to consider those bills vetoed by Governor Roy Cooper. However, that doesn’t mean they can’t act on any other legislative issues, including HB-867. It’s doubtful, but possible.

S-410 will NOT be one of the bills considered by the General Assembly next week as Governor Cooper signed the legislation into law yesterday. Even so, there will be much discussion about the bill between now and the short session next May.

H-56 can also be considered as different versions passed the House and Senate and now resides in conference. House Speaker Tim Moore has indicated the fish provisions that were added by the Senate WILL NOT be agreed to by the House because “there is no consensus on the fish bill at this time. The caucus is very divided”.

Now that the dust has somewhat settled from the long session, we can take comfort that H-867 has not moved after a tremendous amount of work and money has been invested by the other side. They really did think they had a slam dunk. The other side may have had some rather big guns and a lot of money, but our message has been consistent and respectful, and was capped off with Seafood Lobby Day before the session ended. That success has a price, (there’s always a price), and that price is that the fisheries provisions we needed are probably not going anywhere either. We won’t give up!

On July 5th, my wife and I hooked up to our camper and headed north. For 2 weeks we were in an area that was cool enough in the morning that a campfire felt rather good. Campfire, hot coals, cast iron, bacon, eggs, burgers, shrimp, scallops, family & friends were a nice respite from the fish and politics. There were some frustrations though when trying to plan. Every day we were there we had rain in the forecast. If we would have scheduled our gatherings around the weather forecast we would have never seen anyone. So it got me to thinking: how many college trained meteorologists are there in this country? So, I looked it up and there are about 10,000, but not sure that’s accurate. Whatever number there are, they spend all day poring over numbers and computer models to figure out what to tell us. All of those degrees. All of that technology. And how often do they get it right? Forget about the amount of rain, I just want to know if it will rain or not!

Now, let’s figure out how many fish there are in the oceans. Sure we will!

God bless,

Jerry

SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL LOOKING FOR ADVISORS

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is currently soliciting applicants for open advisory panel seats. Working at the grassroots level, advisory panel members provide information and guidance in the development and implementation of federal fishery management plans. The Council has eleven advisory panels composed of individuals who are engaged in the harvest of managed species, or are knowledgeable and interested in the conservation and management of the fishery or managed species. Members include recreational and commercial fishermen, seafood dealers and processors, formal representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), scientists, and concerned citizens.

Advisory panel members are appointed by the Council and serve for a three-year period, based on the frequency of meetings. As those appointments expire, members currently serving on the AP may reapply for their positions. These seats also become open to new applicants. Members may serve for three consecutive terms before reaching their term limit. AP members generally meet no more than once or twice each year and are compensated for travel and per diem expenses for all meetings. Members must have access to a working email account and the Internet in order to receive meeting materials and correspondence relative to their service on the advisory panel. Applications are now being solicited for the following positions:

Dolphin Wahoo Advisory Panel

(1) SC Open Seat; (1) FL Open Seat

Habitat Protection & Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel

(1) SC Recreational Representative

Law Enforcement Advisory Panel

(1) Open Seat; (1) Recreational Fishing Representative; and (1) Commercial Fishing Representative

Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel

(1) Open Seat; (1) NGO Representative; and (1) At-Large Cobia Subpanel Seat

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel

(1) NC Open Seat; (3) SC Open Seats; and (2) FL Open Seats

Advisory Panel Applicants

Additional information, including new online application forms are now available from the *Advisory Panel* page of the Council's website at <http://safmc.net/about-safmc/advisory-panels/>. Please contact Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, at Kim.Iverson@safmc.net or call the Council office at 843/571-4366 with any questions.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact area Council representatives to discuss their interest in serving. Contact information for all Council members is available from the *About Us* section of the Council's website at <http://safmc.net/council-members/> or through the Council office. Advisory panel members will be selected during the Council's September 11-15, 2017 meeting in Charleston, SC. **Advisory panel applications must be received by August 16, 2017** for consideration by the Council during the September meeting.

NMFS APPROVES ITP MODIFICATIONS FOR STURGEON

Some time ago, we requested that the Division of Marine Fisheries request some modifications to the Incidental Take Permit, (ITP), for sturgeon from the National Marine Fisheries Service. (NMFA). We received the following message from Chris Batsavage, Protected Resources Section Chief for DMF this past Monday:

Earlier this month, we sent a request to NMFS for a minor modification to the NC Atlantic Sturgeon ITP that changes the seasonal takes to annual takes in management units A, B and C for both large and small mesh gill nets. NMFS approved our request and it's effective today. This will provide more flexibility in managing allowed sturgeon takes and alleviate the seasonal closures for Atlantic sturgeon. Please feel free to share with your membership and let me know if you have any questions or would like more information.

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CALENDAR

August 1-3; ASMFC Summer meeting; Alexandria, VA
August 8-10; Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Philadelphia, PA
August 14; Noon; NCFA Board meeting; Washington, NC
August 16-17; NC Marine Fisheries Commission; Raleigh, NC