

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: 11/16/2018**  
**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)**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

Glenn Skinner and Jerry Schill attended the meeting of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources. DMF Director Steve Murphey was on the agenda speaking about how the \$1.6 million already authorized for hurricane relief for commercial fishermen would be distributed. He also mentioned the Governor's request for \$12 million for commercial fishing hurricane relief.

**MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION:**

The MFC met for a public comment session at the Hilton Garden Inn, Kitty Hawk, at 6:00pm on Wednesday evening.

Rep. (and Senator-elect) Bob Steinburg and Currituck County Commissioner (and Rep.-elect) Bobby Hanig attended the meeting as well as Currituck County Commissioner Mike Payment.

NCFA's Glenn Skinner and Jerry Schill both spoke about the importance of keeping the practice of moving the MFC meetings in the north and the south to allow stakeholders easier access to the fisheries management process. At the meeting in August, new Chairman Rob Bizzell announced he was ending that practice to eliminate the staff travel time and expense. One speaker noted that Dare County leads the state in commercial seafood landings as a point in keeping the tradition of moving the meetings.

Glenn also spoke about Commissioner Kornegay's proposed policy on scientific uncertainty and legal problems that it would create and encouraged the Commission not to adopt it. And Jerry also noted that the NCFA Board unanimously endorsed Tim Griner to be reappointed to his second term on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. The Commission makes recommendations to the Governor who then forwards the state's nominations to the US Secretary of Commerce. The appointments are usually announced in June.



*(L-R Catherine Blum, Chairman Rob Bizzell, Sam Romano  
Doug Cross, Michael Cross (Doug's Son)  
Photo Credit: Jerry Schill)*

On Thursday, the MFC met for their business session from 9:00 till about 4:15. The first order of business was the swearing in of two new commissioners: Sam Romano of Wilmington and Doug Cross of Pamlico County. They fill the slots left by the August resignations of Alison Willis and Sammy Corbett.

Chairman Rob Bizzell said that the public comment the previous evening did not convince him to keep meeting in the north or southern areas. The three commercial Commissioners all opined they disagreed with that decision.

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At the August meeting, Commissioner Pete Kornegay moved that the MFC adopt a "Policy on Scientific Uncertainty", and his motion was tabled. On Thursday, the MFC attorney cited legal concerns about adopting such a policy and Mr. Kornegay withdrew his motion.

Upon a recommendation by the Division, the Commission approved moving forward with a supplement to the Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan by a vote of 6-3. One commissioner said anything the Commission does will be useless if the Wildlife Resources Commission does not adopt similar measures in their jurisdiction.

### **Calendar**

**Nov. 28 at 6 p.m.**

**Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee**

Department of Environmental Quality Regional Office

943 Washington Square Mall, Washington

**Contacts:** Mike Loeffler or Anne Markwith

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**Dec. 6 at 6 p.m.**

**Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee**

Department of Environmental Quality Regional Office

943 Washington Square Mall, Washington

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**Dec. 12 at 11 a.m.**

**NCFA Board Meeting**

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott, Washington

2090 West 15<sup>th</sup> St

Washington, NC 27889



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