

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 5/26/2017**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**  
**Phone: (252) 633-NCFA (6232) [www.ncfish.org](http://www.ncfish.org)**  
**Glenn Skinner, Exec. Director: [glennskinner@ncfish.org](mailto:glennskinner@ncfish.org); 252-646-7742**  
**David Bush, Fisheries Biologist: [davidbush@ncfish.org](mailto:davidbush@ncfish.org); ext. 102**  
**Jerry Schill, Govt. Relations: [jerryschill@ncfish.org](mailto:jerryschill@ncfish.org); ext. 104**  
**Peggy Page, Accounting: [peggy@ncfish.org](mailto:peggy@ncfish.org); ext. 103**  
**Aundrea O'Neal, Tradewinds Editor: [aundrea@ncfish.org](mailto:aundrea@ncfish.org); ext. 101**

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**MISS DEBBIE CAPSIZED BY TORNADO OFF GEORGIA COAST  
CAPTAIN AND CREW MISSING, BUT SEARCH CONTINUES**



As of noon today, the search continues for the captain and crew of the Miss Debbie, a 47ft commercial fishing vessel owned by Lee Bland and Madge Williams in Swan Quarter. We understand that divers have finally been able to get to the vessel so we should have word rather soon.

The U.S. Coast Guard has released the names of three fishermen missing off the coast of Tybee Island, Georgia, since a round of severe weather hit the area Tuesday evening.

The three fishermen have been identified as the Captain, Gary McGowen, his son-in-law, Benjamin (BJ) Dover and Isaac West, who was from Georgia. Gary and BJ are from Hyde County, NC.

Our thoughts and prayers continue for the McGowen, Dover and West families as well as for Lee Bland and Madge and the entire commercial fishing community.

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### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

Since the Senate approved their version of the budget a couple of weeks ago, it's now in the House. In addition to some "stand-alone" pieces of legislation that cleared the Senate before crossover, there were some special provisions regarding fisheries that was part of their budget. However, the chairs of the House Appropriations Committee removed those special provisions before their sub committee even had a chance to debate!

Next week will be very active on the House side as they move for floor approval of their version of the budget, then the Senate and House conferees will be having intense discussion to reconcile the differences.

Other than that, the only other fisheries related issue was S-410, Marine Aquaculture Development Act, that had already been given a favorable report by the Senate Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Committee. On Wednesday, the bill was given a favorable report by the Finance Committee and now goes to Rules.

You can the latest version of the bill here:

[S-410](#)

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### **CARTERET COUNTY FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS:**

CCFA will hold its regular meeting on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Marshallberg Community Club at 6:00pm.

They will be holding a fundraiser at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum on June 24 (all day event) selling shrimp burgers and hotdogs...

More info later.

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### **CALENDAR**

May 27; CCFA meeting; 6:00pm; Marshallberg Community Club

June 5; NCFA Board; Noon; Civic Center in Washington NC

June 6 – 8; MAFMC Meeting; Norfolk, VA

June 12 – 16; SAFMC Meeting; Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

June 24; CCFA fundraiser; all day event; Core Sound Waterfowl Museum