

WEEKLY UPDATE: 12/19/2016
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

On behalf of NCFA's Board of Directors, Members & Staff, we wish everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!

NCFA ANNUAL MEETING DATE SET FOR JANUARY 9, 2017:

NCFA's Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2017, beginning at 3:00pm at the Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern.

IMPORTANT SHRIMP MEETING THIS WEEK WITH SOUTHERN SHRIMP ALLIANCE!!!

On Wednesday, December 21st, a meeting for shrimpers will be held in Sneads Ferry, and on the 22nd in New Bern. Sponsored by the Southern Shrimp Alliance, the discussion will be about shrimp imports. Details are printed below. If you're out shrimping and cannot attend, you should send a family representative!

The Sneads Ferry meeting info:
Wednesday, December 21st at 5:00pm at:
Madison Restaurant
105 Sugar Ln.
Sneads Ferry, NC 28460

New Bern meeting info:
Thursday, December 22nd at 10:am at:
Moore's Olde Tyme Barbecue
3621 Hwy 17 South
New Bern, NC 28562

The Southern Shrimp Alliance is holding meetings regarding the **Sunset Review** and the tariffs that are currently in place on imported shrimp from five countries. These meetings are regarding the International Trade Commission's Questionnaire (ITC) that folks need to complete and send back to the ITC by December 28. The Sunset Review will determine if tariffs will remain on imported shrimp for another five years. **Everyone associated with the shrimp** industry should attend this very important meeting. You are strongly encouraged to

attend this extremely important meeting regarding these questionnaires. There will be a question and answer session after the meeting and we also encourage everyone to ask questions during the various presentations.

Again, this is a very important meeting. Please make time to attend and participate.

For more info, call John Williams, Executive Director of the Southern Shrimp Alliance:
727-934-5090.

COMMERCIAL FISHING RESOURCE FUNDING COMMITTEE SCHEDULED TO MEET:

Meeting is set for Wednesday, December 28, 2016
Location: DEQ Regional Office at the Mall in Washington, NC

Agenda includes the development of a draft memorandum of understanding and the consideration of options for the Commercial Fishing Resource Fund.

This group was established through legislation by the North Carolina General Assembly and consists of the following members:

Gilbert Baccus, Chairman, Albemarle Fishermen's Association
Benny O'Neal, North Carolina Fisheries Association
Andrew Berry, North Carolina Watermen United
Ernie Doshier, Ocracoke Working Watermen's Association
Bill Hooper, Carteret County Waterman's Association
Steve Parrish, Brunswick County Fishermen's Association

This meeting will only include the industry component of the group. The full group includes the following members of the Marine Fisheries Commission: Sammy Corbett, Chairman; Alison Willis and Janet Rose.

SHRIMP PETITION MEETING DATE SET for January 17th in NEW BERN:

A joint meeting of several advisory committees of the Marine Fisheries Commission has been set for Tuesday, January 17th in New Bern at the Riverfront Convention Center. **THIS WILL BE A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING!**

The subject of this may be to take comment on the recently filed Petition for Rulemaking by the North Carolina Wildlife Federation regarding severe restrictions on shrimping, but as far as we're concerned, this is a referendum on the future of commercial fishing in North Carolina!

Put this date on your calendar! Set aside the whole day for it! We'll advise when we get word of the time the meeting will begin.

YET ANOTHER NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION!

The General Assembly will meet again on Wednesday morning for the purpose of considering the repeal of HB-2, or the so-called “bathroom bill”. Not much chance of them addressing any other issue but anything is possible!

SHRIMP BYCATCH REDUCTION INDUSTRY WORKGROUP TO MEET:

The Shrimp Bycatch Reduction Industry Workgroup will meet at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 9 at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, located at 203 S. Front St. in New Bern.

The committee will receive an update on 2016 testing of bycatch reduction gears and prioritize new gears for field tests in 2017.

For more information, contact Kevin Brown, gear development biologist with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, at 252 808 8089 or Kevin.H.Brown@ncdenr.gov.

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017;

Purpose is to take comments on proposal to restrict shrimp trawling

The meeting will be conducted by the Marine Fisheries Commission to take public comment on the North Carolina Wildlife Federation’s Petition for Rulemaking. The following Advisory Committees will hear comments from the public:

Finfish; Shellfish/Crustacean; Habitat and Water Quality; Northern Regional; Southern Regional

The meeting will be held at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, beginning at 12:30pm.
Contact Nancy Fish at DMF: 252-808-8021

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

SOUTHERN FLOUNDER LAWSUIT:

We would like to thank all of you who have donated to the Southern Flounder Fund so far. We will send a special update out soon listing those who have contributed to the fund.

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

Dec 21; Southern Shrimp Alliance meeting with shrimpers; 5:00pm; Madison Restaurant, Sneads Ferry
Dec 22; Southern Shrimp Alliance meeting with shrimpers; 10:00am; Moore's Old Tyme BBQ; New Bern
Dec 28; Commercial Fishing Resource Funding Cmte; 10:00am; DEQ Regional Office; Washington NC
Jan 9, 2017; Shrimp Industry Bycatch Reduction Workgroup; 10:30am; Convention Center; New Bern, NC
Jan 9, 2017; NCFA's Annual Meeting; 3:00pm; Riverfront Convention Center; New Bern, NC
Jan 17, 2017; Shrimp Petition Hearing; 12:30pm; Riverfront Convention Center; New Bern, NC