

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

South Atlantic States Schedule Public Hearings on Cobia Public Information

Document – The South Atlantic states of Virginia through Florida have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on the Public Information Document (PID) for the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Cobia. The details of the scheduled hearings follow.

Meetings in our area include:

December 15, 2016; 5 PM
Dare County Government Administration Building
Room 168
954 Marshall C. Collins Drive
Manteo, North Carolina
Contact: [Michelle Duval](mailto:Michelle.Duval@ncdenr.gov) at 252.808.8011

Mid-Atlantic Council to Meet – The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will meet Dec. 12-15 at the Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Baltimore, 550 Light St., Baltimore, MD.

Webinar: For online access to the meeting, enter as a guest at: <http://mafmc.adobeconnect.com/december2016>.

Meeting Materials: Briefing documents will be posted at <http://www.mafmc.org/briefing/december-2016> as they become available.

IMPORTANT SHRIMP MEETING NEXT 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 will be sent out later today, but shrimpers should plan to attend. If you're out shrimping and cannot attend, you should send a family representative!

We will include the specifics about the meeting later.

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

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

SHRIMP PETITION MEETING DATE TENTATIVELY SET:

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.

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY SET FOR SPECIAL SESSION:

The General Assembly will meet this week beginning on Tuesday morning to address relief efforts from the effects of Hurricane Matthew. There are rumors of other issues coming up, so we'll keep our eyes open. Jerry will head to Raleigh first thing Tuesday morning.

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. A full agenda can be found [here](#).

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.

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

ADD TO LIST OF CONTRIBUTOR^S TO THE SOUTHERN FLOUNDER FUND

Thanks to the following individuals, businesses and organizations that have contributed to the Southern Flounder Fund. Is your name on it?

Last week we listed those who have given to the Southern Flounder Fund. Since we wrote that list, here are some additional contributors:

Walter Craddock
Ocracoke Seafood
Luther Smith & Son Seafood
Mike Keller, Ltd.
Gordon Networks
Len Creech
Timmy Hewett
Brunswick County Fishermen's Association

THANK YOU!

CALENDAR

Dec 15; SAFMC Hearing on Cobia; 5:00pm; Dare County Admin Bldg. in Manteo
Dec 12 – 15; Mid Atlantic Council Meeting; Baltimore, MD
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
Jan 9, 2017; Shrimp Industry Bycatch Reduction Workgroup; 10:30am; Convention Center; New Bern, NC
Jan 9, 2017; NCFA's Annual Meeting; 3:00pm; Convention Center; New Bern, NC
Jan 17, 2017; Shrimp Petition Hearing; Convention Center; New Bern, NC; Time TBA