

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 8/8/2016**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
**"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"**  
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**NCFA BOARD TO MEET:**

NCFA'S Board of Directors will have their August meeting on Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, beginning at NOON at the Civic Center in Washington, NC.

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**NOTE FROM JERRY:**

Although Pam & I did get to see our Great-Grandson while in Virginia, it did NOT mitigate the aggravation from attending the ASMFC meeting in Alexandria!

Rep. Bob Steinburg is the Legislative Appointee to the ASMFC. He could not attend and since I was planning on attending anyway, he gave me his proxy. The other ASMFC voting members were Dr. Michelle Duval as designee for DMF Director Braxton Davis and Doug Brady, the Governor's Appointee.

On Wednesday morning, several hours of debate took place over the setting of the 2017 menhaden quota. There was a substantial presentation on the background of the issues including a report from the Menhaden Technical Committee. According to the last stock assessment, menhaden stocks are healthy, the fishery is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The Technical Committee's report stated that the quota could be increased 40% and not meet the target threshold.

After the presentations, a motion was made to increase the menhaden quota by 20%, which I seconded. After the maker of the motion and I offered our rationale, an amended motion was offered to maintain the status quo, or NO increase. That amended motion for no quota increase was defeated, with North Carolina voting no. Doug Brady and I did not agree with that motion and Michelle Duval did, so the North Carolina vote was no. The motion failed in a 9 to 9 tie vote.

The main motion was then amended to allow for a 5% increase, but that motion also failed in a 9 to 9 tie, with North Carolina voting yes. This time, Michelle and Doug agreed with the motion and I did not, so NC voted yes.

The main motion was amended again, this time for a 1% increase, but that motion failed 11 to 7, with NC voting no.

The main motion was amended again, this time to reconsider the 10% increase, but it failed again 9 to 8, with North Carolina voting no. Michelle and Doug did not agree to the 10% increase and I did, so NC voted no.

The motion was amended again to increase the quota 19%. (Don't ask why since the main motion was at 20% and I didn't understand it), but that motion also failed 11 to 5, with North Carolina against. (I agreed with the motion to increase the quota 19% and Michelle and Doug did not, so NC voted no.)

The next motion actually passed! It was 10 to 7 to postpone setting the 2017 menhaden quota till their October meeting.

Now, you may think that the most frustrating part of this process was all of the motions and amended motions, etc. The most frustrating part for me and many others is this: If the Technical Committee, (the Science!) would have provided information that the current quota is causing overfishing, I guarantee you that the first motion to cut the quota would have passed easily. It only makes sense then, that when the stock assessment and “the Science” is so positive, that at least a portion of what was taken away should be given back. But common sense and fairness are rarely exhibited by fisheries managers, using this debate as a barometer.

To see a summation of all that went on at the ASMFC meeting last week, go here:

<http://www.asmfc.org/files/Meetings/2016SummerMtg/2016SummerMeetingSummary.pdf>

Finally, there are some folks who have no love for commercial fishermen that have stated that the proxy given to me by Bob Steinburg is illegal. It is not. Those same folks were making allegations that my vote to increase the quota by 20% was because Omega Protein pays a lot of money to NCFCA. Omega is not a member of NCFCA and contributes nothing! My position on this is simply one of fairness. An increase in quota helps Omega to be sure, but it helps the bait guys as well, and that would be good news for both recreational and commercial fishermen who use menhaden for bait.

I sincerely appreciate Bob Steinburg’s willingness to give me his proxy for this meeting.

Jerry

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#### COBIA PUBLIC HEARINGS SET BY SAFMC:

Last week the South Atlantic Council had a webinar public hearing and several hearings to take comments on cobia, mutton snapper, dolphin (mahi-mahi) and yellowtail snapper. Information can be found here:

[http://safmc.net/SAFMCNR\\_072016\\_PublicHearingsAug2016](http://safmc.net/SAFMCNR_072016_PublicHearingsAug2016)

The remaining hearings are as follows. (This list is not inclusive of all areas, only those in our area):

Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>: Hilton; Virginia Beach

Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>: DMF Central Office; Morehead City, NC

Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>: Hilton, Kitty Hawk, NC

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From David:

#### NC Fisheries Workshop Update:

I have gotten quite a bit of interest from recreational fishermen, but not many commercial fishermen have signed up yet.

Time is running out to sign up for the workshop, and I need confirmation from folks who wish to attend. If any of you, or your employees/fishermen/associated workers would like to attend, I need confirmation via email at [davidbush@ncfish.org](mailto:davidbush@ncfish.org), or by phone at 910-777-1605.

The date is set for September 17th in New Bern, and if things go well, there will be future opportunities for those that missed it to attend.

Please check with your folks and reply as soon as possible so that this can move forward.

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#### FISHERMEN’S WORKGROUP TO MEET:

NCFA is hosting two meetings for a Fishermen's Workgroup on Protected Species. Details were sent out recently, but if you did NOT receive them in the mail and want more information, call or send us a note. The meetings are scheduled for:

August 30<sup>th</sup>: 1:00pm at the Wanchese Community Center in Wanchese

August 31<sup>st</sup>: 2:00pm at the Sanitary Restaurant in Morehead City

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### SEA TO TABLE:

Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow (ACT), in collaboration with the Culinary School at Carteret Community College, is sponsoring a SEA TO TABLE Dinner on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City.

You'll enjoy a three-course meal fresh from local waters and farmland and prepared by Chef Ross Ragonese and students at the Culinary School. All proceeds benefit Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow in their efforts to protect and grow Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

Tickets are \$75. For more information and reservations: [www.alliesforcherrypoint.com](http://www.alliesforcherrypoint.com) or (252) 631-5021.

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### SOUTHERN FLOUNDER:

The clock is ticking and these expenses will only increase, so if you have not yet contributed to the Southern Flounder Fund, please consider doing so.

If you have not yet contributed, please do so ASAP!

Send your donations to:

NCFA

2807 Neuse Blvd; Suite 11

New Bern, NC 28562

Please make your check out to NCFA/Southern Flounder Fund or to the NC Fisheries Association and be sure to put Southern Flounder Fund in the memo.

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### CALENDAR

Aug 8 – 11: MAFMC meeting; Virginia Beach, VA

Aug 9: SAFMC hearing on Cobia & Snapper Grouper; Virginia Beach, NC

Aug 10: SAFMC hearing on Cobia & Snapper Grouper; DMF Central Office; Morehead City, NC

Aug 11: SAFMC hearing on Cobia & Snapper Grouper; Hilton, Kitty Hawk, NC

Aug 16; NCFA Board of Directors; Noon; Civic Center in Washington, NC

Aug 17 – 19: North Carolina MFC meeting; Hilton Brownstone, Raleigh

Aug 30: Fishermen's Workgroup; 1:00pm; Wanchese Community Center in Wanchese

Aug 31: Fishermen's Workgroup; 2:00pm; Sanitary Restaurant in Morehead City

Sept 8: Sea to Table Dinner; local seafood and farm; 6:00pm; Crystal Coast Civic Center, Morehead City

Sept 12 – 16: SAFMC meeting; Myrtle Beach, SC