

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 2/16/2018**  
**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)

---

**MARINE FISHERIES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS CHANGING COMMERCIAL LICENSE CRITERIA**  
**Commission blatantly ignores public comment**

In a blatant affront to public process and ignoring the comments from stakeholders, the Marine Fisheries Commission voted 5 to 4 yesterday morning to send a letter to the General Assembly requesting that they send a letter to the state legislature with recommendations for changes in commercial fishing licenses.

It was blatant because overwhelming public comments and the sentiment of a near unanimous commercial fishing industry was ignored! For several hours on Wednesday evening, dozens spoke against ANY changes to the licensing criteria. However, on Thursday morning, before having the decency to at least discuss the comments they heard, Pete Kornegay offered a "pre-approved" motion that he said had been drafted by the North Carolina Wildlife Federation and "tweaked" by himself and at least one other commissioner in a rec seat. Chairman Sammy Corbett mentioned that over 99% of the comments they heard were in opposition to any changes, but it meant nothing to those on this commission that have not-so-hidden agendas!

On Wednesday evening those same Commissioners heard 100% of those commenting on the subject voicing their strong opposition to changing the criteria for commercial licenses.

There were three very important decisions made by the MFC yesterday in Wrightsville Beach.

- 1.) Vote to make recommendations for changing commercial licensing criteria by a vote of 5-4.
- 2.) Request by Commissioner Laughridge that the DMF Director issue an emergency proclamation on southern flounder. Director Steve Murphey said he would not do it.
- 3.) Vote to send a letter to Governor Cooper and ask him to review the current makeup of the MFC and make changes if deemed necessary.

Chairman Corbett began the public comments session on Wednesday evening by asking Nancy Fish of DMF to read into the record comments sent by Rep. Bob Steinburg of Edenton. Rep. Steinburg indicated that he was strongly opposed to making the changes to commercial fishing license criteria.

There were some excellent comments made on Wednesday evening, including Dare County Commissioner Steve House, Carteret County attorney, Steve Weeks and NCFAs Glenn Skinner and Jerry Schill. Glenn hit hard by saying members of the Commission should understand they represent a constituency and not their own personal interests or agendas. He suggested if they don't understand that, they should resign.

Jerry Schill's comments are here, along with the makeup of the Marine Fisheries Commission for the past 32 years.

Rather than make this Weekly Update too lengthy, the two votes are listed with the proper wording in the links below. If you are receiving this by regular mail or fax and would like a copy, call the office.

Also, we'll provide some commentary on the MFC's actions next week. Again, understand that what the MFC approved was a letter being sent to legislators and will NOT become effective unless passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. They don't go into session till the middle of May and NCFAs has been letting our legislators know of our opposition to the MFC's action and will continue to do so!

---

## **SEAFOOD RECEPTION AND LOBBY DAY PLANNING IN THE WORKS!**

NCFA is making final preparations for a Seafood Reception and Lobby Day in May! This will be an especially important time for you to make plans for going to Raleigh to talk to legislators during the day and attend a legislative seafood reception in the evening. More details will be coming soon!

---

## **UPDATED NCFA WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING!**

Check out the new and improved NCFA website! Weekly Updates are posted on the site and you can fill out a membership application and pay your dues online! Check it out!

[www.ncfish.org](http://www.ncfish.org)

---

## **CCFA SETS DATE FOR ANNUAL FISH FRY!**

The Carteret County Fisherman's Association has set May 5<sup>th</sup> as the date for its Annual Fish Fry! More details to come!

---

## **CALENDAR**

Feb. 26; Noon; NCFA Board of Directors; Civic Center; Washington, NC

March 5 – 9; South Atlantic Council; Jekyll Island, Georgia

---