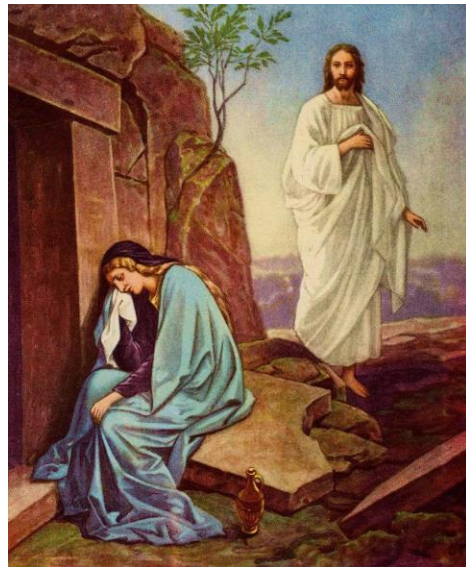


**WEEKLY UPDATE: 3/29/2018**  
**NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**  
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"  
PO Box 86; Morehead City, NC 28557  
Phone: (252) 726-NCFA (6232) Fax: (252) 726-6200  
[www.ncfish.org](http://www.ncfish.org)

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## **HAPPY EASTER!**

Due to Good Friday, this update is being sent a day early as our office is closed. NCFA Board & Staff wish all of our members and friends and very joyous and Blessed Easter!



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## **NCFA FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION!**

NCFA filed a lawsuit on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, naming all nine members of the Marine Fisheries Commission as defendants, alleging violating North Carolina's open meetings law. If you would like a copy of the complete complaint or the press release, please respond to this message or call the NCFA office.

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## **NCFA YOUNG FISHERMAN'S PROGRAM**

The NCFA is excited to announce the start of its Young Fisherman's Program. The purpose of the program is to educate young fishermen about the fishery management process in NC and encourage them to become more involved in that process. The first year of the three-year program will focus on public speaking, community outreach and education with a set of goals that will help our young fishermen progress in each of these areas.

There is no age requirement for this program and it is open to both young and the young at heart. If you are interested or someone you know maybe interested in participating, please contact Aundrea O'Neal.

[aundrea@ncfish.org](mailto:aundrea@ncfish.org), 252-726-6232 or 252-503-8302.

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## **ACTION ITEM: NEED CALLS FOR CRABBERS & PROCESSORS!!!**

Every year it's tough for our crab processors to get enough workers to pick crabs. Without the workers, the processors cannot pick crabmeat. When that happens, the processors quit buying, and hurt the crab fishermen. For the last quite a few years, our domestic workers have shied away from picking crabs, so the processors use the H2B Guest Worker program to do it. Before they can apply for H2B workers though, they must advertise locally and assure that they can't fill the jobs with local domestic workers. Only after that can they apply for the guest workers.

All of you that are in support of a healthy crab industry need to call Senator Burr and Senator Tillis about signing a letter urging the Department of Homeland Security and the US Department of Labor to help support our domestic crab processors and our crabbers! Senator Tillis has already on board so any calls to him should be to THANK him for doing so! Senator Burr needs to be encouraged to sign on as well!

Senator Richard Burr: 202-224-3154 (be nice, but FIRM!)

Senator Thom Tillis: 202-224-6342 (be nice and VERY thankful! He has been out front of this issue for us!)

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## **JOHN DROZ TO OFFER INFO ON WIND ENERGY**

John Droz, Jr., physicist & citizen activist, will present a 30 minute slide presentation titled, "Wind Energy Local Economics: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly". At the Dare County Commissioners meeting, he'll also offer some comments on offshore energy.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>; 5:00pm; Currituck County Commissioners meeting

April 3<sup>rd</sup>; 9:00am; Dare County Commissioners meeting

April 3<sup>rd</sup>; 1:00pm; meeting with citizens; Old Courthouse in Edenton

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## **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 at Wheatly Boys Tire in Otway! Hours are 11:00am to 4:00pm.

Sponsorships are \$250 & up; Memorial/Honorarium \$100; Raffle tickets \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Plates are only \$10 each!

Tickets for the raffle and for fish plates can be picked up now at the NCFA office in Morehead City!

For sponsorships or honorariums or for more info, call Aundrea O'Neal: 252-503-8302.



**May 5th**

11AM to 4PM

\$10 Per Plate

**LOCATION: Wheatly Boys Tire & Auto**

**760 Hwy 70 E. OTWAY, NC**

for more information call 252.269.5020 or 252.503.8302

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

**Event will be on May 23<sup>rd</sup>!**

The day begins with a rally on the south side of the Capitol from 9:00am till 1:00pm!

If you want to take advantage of special room rates, you **MUST** make your reservation by April 22<sup>nd</sup>!

Here are the details for the special rates at the Raleigh hotel for May 22<sup>nd</sup> and/or May 23<sup>rd</sup>:

Red Roof PLUS on South Saunders Street

Rates start at \$63.74 and you can reserve for only one night or both.

To reserve, call 1-800-733-7663 and mention the North Carolina Fisheries Association and Code B256NFISH

NCFA is making final preparations for a Seafood Reception and Lobby Day for May 23<sup>rd</sup>! 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.

Last year was the first year for Seafood Lobby Day, which we hope to make an annual event in conjunction with the Legislative Seafood Reception. The Reception was started several years ago by NC Watermen United (NCWU) and NCFA was invited a few years ago to participate. NCFA had the first Seafood Lobby Day last year, primarily to address H-867 which was basically a rewrite of the Fisheries Reform Act without any commercial fishing input.

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## **CAMPAIGN EVENTS**

We have not received any campaign news to report.

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## **MID ATLANTIC COUNCIL SEEKS ADVISORS**

**We included specific information in the last 2 updates, so if you need it, please call the office or respond to this message. Completed applications must be received by Friday, April 20, 2018.**

**If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mary Sabo at (302) 518-1143, [msabo@mafmc.org](mailto:msabo@mafmc.org).**

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## **CALENDAR**

**April 2 & 3; John Droz presentation on wind energy; Currituck, Manteo & Edenton; see above for details**

**April 4; 10:00am to 2:00pm; Shrimp Bycatch Workshop; History Center; New Bern, NC**

**April 9; Noon; NCFA Board of Directors; Civic Center; Washington, NC**

**April 10 – 12; Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Montauk, NY**

**May 1 – 3; Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; Arlington, VA**

**May 5; Carteret County Fisherman's Association Fish Fry**

**May 23; ALL DAY; Seafood Lobby Day in Raleigh**