

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: 5/03/2019
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
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Very, very busy week in Raleigh as the crossover deadline is May 9th. That means if a bill does not make it through either the Senate or the House by that date, it's dead for the session, unless the bill contains a money component.

It's our understanding that House bills 483 and 486 were both discussed in the House Republican caucus on Tuesday afternoon. According to what we heard, there was no appetite for moving either bill forward. Since then, however, we hear rumblings that some want the caucus to reconsider one of the bills. Caucus meetings are behind closed doors and the deliberations are held rather tight, so all we can do is sit back and wait.

On Tuesday afternoon in the House Environment Committee in discussions of an environmental bill, an amendment was offered by Rep. Jimmy Dixon and Pat McElraft that provides oversight on fisheries issues by the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources. NCFA has been attempting to get back to the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood & Aquaculture which was disbanded in 2011, but that effort won't get any traction. What this measure does is provide legislative oversight to marine fisheries issues. NCFA agrees with this measure and thanks Representatives Dixon and McElraft for bringing it forward. The bill itself is H-479 and passed the House and sent to the Senate.

On the Senate side, S-554 and S-648 were discussed in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources on Wednesday. It was discussion only with Senator Norman Sanderson giving an excellent overview of the Fisheries Reform Act of 1997. Speaking in favor of the bill were Jerry Schill for NCFA, Joy Hicks of DEQ and Nancy Fish of DMF. David Sneed of CCA offered negative comments about the bill. On Thursday morning the Committee met again and passed both bills with no opposition. They now move to the Senate Rules Committee which will take them up next week if they are to meet the crossover deadline.

Also, on Tuesday evening, H-169, the bill to make the Loggerhead Sea Turtle the official state reptile, was approved by the House and now goes to the Senate. Representative Larry Yarborough, who just cannot resist making negative comments about anything involving nets, made some out of line and inaccurate comments on the House floor. We have the transcript of his comments and will provide them upon request.

Jerry

H-169, the bill to make the Loggerhead Sea Turtle the state reptile passed the House and sent to the Senate.

H-483: LET THEM SPAWN

Voted favorably 11-3 in Wildlife Resources on April 16; now in Rules. Would require minimum size limits on all species to ensure 75% of

juvenile fish of each species have an opportunity to reach maturity and spawn at least once. We understand it was discussed in Republican caucus but unsure of status.

NCFA OPPOSES H-483

H-486 COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE REFORMS

Voted favorably 6-4 in Wildlife Resources on April 16; now in Finance.

This is similar to a bill filed last year, but it died in committee. This bill would eliminate the RCGL or recreational commercial gear license, would only allow one standard commercial license per person with person including corporation; doubles the license fees. We understand it was discussed in Republican caucus but unsure of status.

NCFA OPPOSES H-486

S-517: PROTECT THE MILITARY/FISHERIES/TOURISM; by Senator Peterson

No action this week. In the Senate Rules Committee.

Would prohibit offshore drilling. Same as H-545 below.

S-554: MARINE FISHERIES REFORMS; by Senators Sanderson, Brown, Tillman and Steinburg

Discussed this week in the Senate Ag Committee and passed. Now in Rules.

This is a bill that began as a meeting of several stakeholder groups, including NCFA, with DEQ/DMF. In NCFA's opinion, the bill as introduced needs to be modified.

Very similar to H-860 introduced this week and explained below.

S-648: SUPPORT SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE; by Senators Sanderson, Rabon and Steinburg

Discussed this week in the Senate Ag Committee and passed. Now in Rules.

This is a result of many meetings with a variety of stakeholders.

Similar to H-809.

H-545: PROTECT THE MILITARY/FISHERIES/TOURISM; by Rep.

Harrison, Martin, Russell and others

No action this week: In the House Rules Committee. Same as S-517 above.

H-598: BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN AS STATE MARINE MAMMAL by Reps Hanig, Grange and others.

Passed the House and sent to the Senate. In the Senate Rules Committee.

H-597: WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AMENDS; sponsored by Adams, Henson, Wray, Yarborough and others.

Substantially raises license fees and makes changes in proclamation authority.

Passed the House Wildlife Resources Committee; now in Finance.

H-809: SUPPORT SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE; McElraft, Yarborough,

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Shepard, Harrison and others.

Similar to S-648 mentioned above. In House Environment Committee.

H-810: MARINE FISHERIES REFORMS; Yarborough

Similar in name to S-554 and H-860 but NOT the same in content!
In House Rules Committee.

NCFA opposes H-810.

H-860: MARINE FISHERIES REFORMS: Cleveland, McElraft, Butler

Similar to S-554 but modified to include changes requested by NCFA.

In House Rules Committee.

H-479: ERC STUDIES/SCOPE: Dixon

Provides legislative oversight of marine fisheries issues by the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources.

Passed the House and sent to the Senate.

<https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H479v2.pdf>

THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTION

The primary was held this past Tuesday, and the following will be on the ballot for the general election as they won their primary:

Democrat Allen Thomas

Libertarian Tim Harris

Constitutional Party Greg Holt did not have a primary but will be on the general election ballot.

A runoff will be held on the Republican side as no candidate received at least 30% of the votes cast. They are:

Greg Murphy from Greenville

Joan Perry from Kinston

CALENDAR

May 23 at 6 p.m.

**Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee
Development of Amendment 3 to the Blue Crab Fishery
Management Plan**

N.C. Department of Environmental Quality's Washington regional office

943 Washington Square Mall, Washington

Contacts: Jason Rock / Corrin Flora

Phone: 252-808-8091 / 252-264-3911

Email: Jason.Rock@ncdenr.gov / Corrin.Flor@ncdenr.gov

May 8 at 6 p.m.

CANCELLED - Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee - **CANCELLED**

May 15-17

May 15 at 6 p.m.

May 16 at 9 a.m.

May 17 at 9 a.m.

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission meeting

A public comment period will be held at 6 p.m. May 15

The business sessions of the meeting will begin at 9 a.m. May 16.

and 9 a.m. May 17

Courtyard by Marriott, 5046 Henderson Dr, Jacksonville

Contact: Nancy Fish

Phone: 252-808-2021

Email: Nancy.Fish@ncdenr.gov

Carteret County Fisherman's Association 2019 Annual Fish Fry & Bake Sale

Saturday, May 18

11-Until

Wheatly Boys Tire & Auto

760 Hwy 70, Otway, NC

NCFA Board Meeting

Monday, May 20

11 am.

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott

2063 West 15th Street

Washington, NC