

NCFA UPDATE: 9/11/2020
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

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

General Assembly: The legislators are not scheduled to return to Raleigh for session until late January. As noted previously, House member and Rules Chairman David Lewis resigned. His replacement has been announced this week and his name is Howard Penny. He will be on the ballot in November as well.

Covid-19 relief for meat and seafood processors: As noted last week, the General Assembly met for 2 days recently and approved a bill to distribute federal funds for Covid-19 relief. Included was a measure to help meat and seafood processors, which will be administered by the NC Department of Agriculture. The Department has asked NCFA to help identify those seafood processors that are eligible.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

The Southern Shrimp Alliance plans on filing comments in support of FTC's proposed rule on September 14, 2020, which means we only have a few days to get as many members of the shrimp industry to comment on the FTC's proposed *Made in the USA* regulations.

Attached and below you will find a short write-up of what we would be asking members to do in terms of commenting, as well as instructions as to how to comment.

Please contact me ASAP if you have any questions or concerns.

727-934-5090

On July 16, 2020, the *Federal Register* published a notice of proposed rulemaking from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) related to "Made in USA" and other unqualified claims of U.S. origin on product labels. The proposed rule would prohibit entities for marketing goods as having been "Made in the U.S.A." unless (1) final assembly or processing of the product occurs in the United States; (2) all significant processing that goes into the product occurs in the United States; **and** (3) all or virtually all ingredients or components of the product are made and sourced in the United States.

The Southern Shrimp Alliance intends to file comments in support of the FTC's proposed rule on September 14, 2020, the deadline established by the agency for comments. The Southern Shrimp Alliance's comments will highlight inappropriate practices by some restaurants in offering menu items that falsely indicate to customers that imported shrimp is domestic (*i.e.*, "Gulf shrimp"). These deceptive practices not only confuse consumers, but fatally undermine the marketing efforts of restaurants that do, in fact, carry domestic shrimp. While the FTC's regulations would not require restaurants to provide the country-of-origin of seafood offered for sale, the Southern Shrimp Alliance is seeking to clarify that the rule prohibits restaurants from making false U.S.-origin claims in their menu offerings.

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To date, the FTC has received hundreds of comments from cattlemen and ranchers in support of the proposed rule. Cattlemen and ranchers believe it is inappropriate for beef products to be labelled as "Made in the U.S.A." if the cattle were raised outside of the United States. This campaign has helped to emphasize the importance of accurate and complete labeling for U.S. food consumers. You can read the comments submitted by cattlemen and ranchers in support of the rule here: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FTC-2020-0056>

A similar effort by members of the U.S. shrimp industry will help to further establish the importance of enforceable labeling standards for food products.

Please consider submitting a comment in support of the rule. You can do so up until September 14th by going to this website, <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FTC-2020-0056-0001>, and clicking on the "Comment Now!" on the right-hand of the screen. You can also reach the comment page directly through this website address: <https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=FTC-2020-0056-0001>

While comments may be submitted anonymously, you may also provide your name and contact information.

In the comment box, you may want to:

- Express your support for the FTC's proposed regulations on "Made in the U.S.A." claims;
- Emphasize the importance of empowering consumers to be able to choose to buy domestic shrimp;
- Provide information regarding your involvement with the U.S. shrimp industry;
- Discuss your opinion of imported shrimp; and/or
- Explain the importance, to you, of being able to purchase goods made in the U.S.A.

MORE GREED!!

The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is "sounding the alarm on Dolphin Management"

The CCA is encouraging recreational anglers to send email comments and make telephone calls to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) staff, members along with states representatives urging to ban the harvest of dolphin (The fish not the mammal) with commercial pelagic longline gear which is an authorized gear has been documented being used since 1987

CCA claims that "manipulations by federal fisheries managers continue to encourage development

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of the directed long line fishery that could have a radically negative impact on the recreational fishery going forward "but their false claims are far more alarming than the actual facts!

The fact is the First Dolphin Fishery Management Plan (FMP) was adopted in 2004 recognizes that Pelagic longline fishery existed in the Atlantic and that in some years accounted for a significant percentage of the commercial dolphin landings from the New England, Mid Atlantic, and South Atlantic regions.

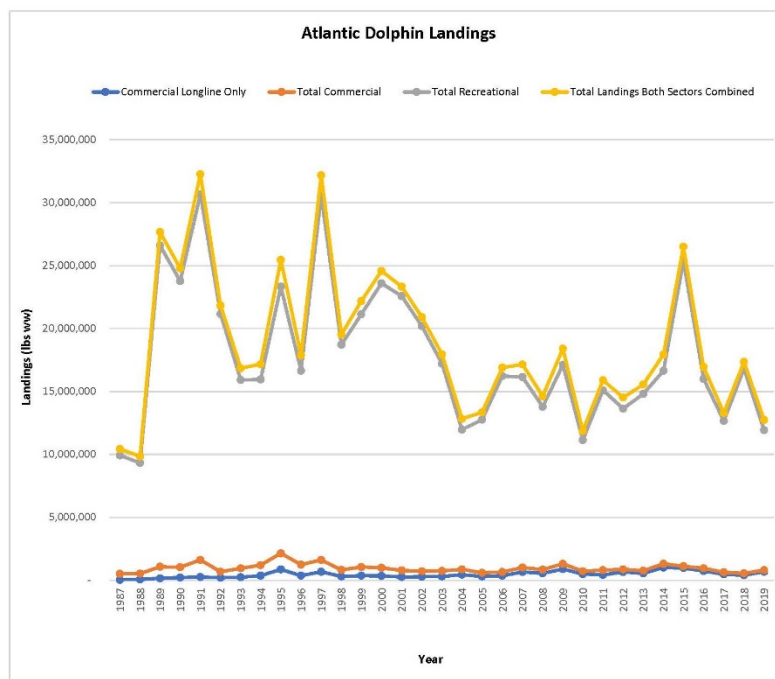
The CCA was quick to point out that commercial dolphin landings exceeded 1 million pounds in 2014 and 2015 claiming this as proof of a developing directed longline fishery, but failed to mention that recreational landings for those same years were 16,641,747 pounds and 25,375,982 pounds respectively.

They also neglected to mention that prior to the adoption of the 2004 FMP commercial landings regularly exceeded 1 million pounds as this would suggest that a directed fishery did in fact exist prior to 2004. While it's obvious these claims are intentionally misleading the CCA's assertion that there is a "federal emphasis on commercializing dolphin" is an outright lie!

The truth is 90% (13,810,361 pounds) of the current annual catch limit (ACL) has been allocated to the recreational sector and 10% (1,534,485 pounds) is allocated to the commercial sector. NOAA closely monitors commercial dolphin landings and is required to close the fishery if the commercial catch limit is met or projected to be met.

The SAFMC also implemented a commercial step-down quota which requires a 4000-pound commercial trip limit when 75% of quota is reached.

These accountability measures have been successful at preventing the commercial ACL from being either met or exceeded assuring quota availability thru out the year.



So, as you can see from the graphs without Pelagic Longline Gear harvesting of DOLPHIN Fish American consumers would have very little access to this seasonal fish.

While Draft Amendment 10 to the Dolphin Wahoo FMP entertains the possibility of revising sector allocations and accountability measures there are no options that would remove commercial accountability or allow the commercial allocation to exceed the current 10% of the total

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ACL,

There are however options that could increase the total annual catch limits which in turn would increase both the recreational and commercial ACL's significantly benefiting both sectors.

In my opinion this option alone explains the CCA's renewed interest in banning the harvest of dolphin with commercial longline gear. Simply put they know that a ban on longline harvest will prevent commercial fishermen from harvesting their current 10% of the total ACL much less any future increases that may occur.

The CCA's push to ban the longline dolphin fishery is a blatant attempt to destroy an existing commercial fishery NOT "to prevent a directed longline fishery for dolphin that already exist

Current management measures assure that the directed longline fishery will never have the "material, negative impact on the quality and availability of this highly prized sportfish" as the CCA has predicted.

Commercialization of the Atlantic dolphin fishery is impossible under the current Fishery Management Plan.

How greedy do you have to be to have 90% of the dolphin harvest allocation and then lie and scheme attempting to take the other 10%?

Simple ask yourself why would the CCA want to deny Americans citizen access to seasonal Fresh domestic Dolphin fish thru Commercial Fishing if not for Greed?

Division of Marine Fisheries reminds gill net fishermen of observer requirements; staff will monitor fishery from state boats due to COVID-19

MOREHEAD CITY – The commercial flounder season opens soon, and the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries is reminding gill net fishermen that one of the conditions for the Estuarine Gill Net Permit (EGNP) is to allow division staff to observe gill net operations.

In response to risks associated with COVID-19, observations will occur at a safe distance from fishermen using division-owned boats. Division staff will continue to contact fishermen to schedule observations and approach fishermen on the water to observe trips.

Refusing to allow an observer to observe a gill net trip will result in revocation of the fisherman's EGNP.

The EGNP is a critical step in meeting the requirements of the division's sea turtle and Atlantic sturgeon Incidental Take Permits issued by NOAA Fisheries under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act. It is required for anyone who sets an anchored gill net (large-mesh or small-mesh) in estuarine waters (commercially or recreationally).

Fishermen convicted of using anchored gill nets in internal coastal waters without holding an EGNP could be subject to a Class A1 misdemeanor.

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The EGNP is available for free from the Division of Marine Fisheries. Fishermen can download an application [here](#). Completed applications may be emailed to License@ncdenr.gov or mailed to the Division of Marine Fisheries, License Office, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City 28557.

Fishermen also may submit completed applications in drop boxes provided at the following division offices:

DMF Headquarters

3441 Arendell St.
Morehead City
Phone: 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632

Manteo Field Office

1021 Driftwood Dr.
Manteo
Phone 252-473-5734 or 800-405-7774

Pamlico District Office

943 Washington Square Mall, Highway 17
Washington
Phone: 252-946-6481 or 800-338-7804

Southern District Office

127 Cardinal Drive Extension
Wilmington
Phone: 910-796-7215 or 800-248-4536

The commercial southern flounder season opens Sept. 15 in the Northern Management Area, which includes Albemarle, Roanoke, and Croatan sounds and their tributaries and Oct. 1 in other estuarine waters of the state. for specific information on the commercial flounder season in the Northern Management Area, see [Proclamation M-14-2020](#).

For more information about observer coverage, contact the Protected Resources Program supervisor Barbie Byrd at 252-808-8088 or Barbie.Byrd@ncdenr.gov.

USDA proffers USD 530 million to seafood industry via Seafood Trade Relief Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced on Wednesday, 9 September, it will provide approximately USD 530 million (EUR 445.6 million) to seafood harvesters in the United States to compensate them for losses caused by retaliatory tariffs.

Up to USD 250,000 (EUR 209,967) will be made available to individual fishermen or businesses whose primary function is harvesting seafood and who have been harmed by tariffs imposed by foreign nations. The funding will be disbursed through the Seafood Trade Relief Program funding via the Commodity Credit Corporation, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency. Eligible individuals or companies can apply for relief from 14 September to 14 December through their [local USDA Service Center](#). The application can be found [here](#).

Hurricane Laura Relief Efforts

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The North Carolina Fisheries Association recently sent several pallets of seafood and bulk ice to Louisiana to assist in the relief efforts as a result of Hurricane Laura.

Seafood Foundation's Helping Hands project will coordinate the deliveries to various locations.



Member Doug Cross of Pamlico Packing in Grantsboro, NC called NCFA's Executive Director Glenn Skinner and suggested NCFA get involved. Skinner agreed and said if Cross would take care of assembling the seafood, NCFA would take care of the logistics of getting it to Louisiana. Government Affairs Director Jerry Schill volunteered for that task.

Armistead Perry of Evans Seafood in Washington NC volunteered his facility for staging and Ross Butler of Wanchese Fish Co and True North Seafood offered the use of one of its refrigerated tractor trailers and driver to get the contents to its destination. They also supplied the pallets of bulk ice for the effort. Charlie Hohorst of Acadiana Cold Storage in Lafayette, Louisiana offered the use of his location to accept and store the donations from North Carolina. The Gulf True North semi arriving at Evans Seafood in Washington NC

True North's driver, Lakeisha Williamson arrived at Evans on Sunday where the truck was loaded with the seafood and some cleaning supplies. The bulk ice was on the truck from Wanchese Fish Co. The truck arrived in Lafayette on Tuesday. The seafood and ice will be picked up by various relief sites to be used to feed storm victims and relief workers. The ice will be used for coolers to keep food cold for residents in the affected areas until power is restored. Assisting Doug Cross was Meade Amory of Amory Seafood who coordinated donations in Virginia.

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Armistead Perry of Evans Seafood with Lakeisha Williamson, driver for True North.

True North driver Lakeisha Williamson with "Helping Hands" gloves from the Gulf Seafood Foundation.

Photograph by Jim Gossen at Acadiana Cold Storage facility in Lafayette, LA.

Jim Gossen, Chairman of the Gulf Seafood

Foundation's Board of Directors, alongside the True North truck, wearing his groups "Helping Hands" gloves.

