

WEEKLY UPDATE: 12/02/11
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
Phone: (252) 745-0225 www.ncfish.org

WASHINGTON, D.C. –Today the House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on several bills to amend the America’s fishing laws, including a bill introduced by Congressman Walter B. Jones (NC-3). The bill – H.R. 2753, the Fishery Management Transparency and Accountability Act – would require the federal Regional Fishery Management Councils to broadcast their meetings live over the Internet and to make recordings of their proceedings available to the public for three years. **Jones said in part,** "Under the Magnuson Act, the Regional Councils and SSCs have the power to determine the economic livelihoods of fishermen and their communities. Given the importance of Council and SSC decisions, fishermen ought to be able to easily monitor their proceedings. But times are tough and fishermen don’t have the money or the time to travel to council meetings for days at a time several times a year. This bill would fix that problem. Mr. Chairman, this bill is a common sense measure to add sunlight to the fisheries management process, and I urge the Committee to support it."

SAFMC Meeting in Raleigh, NC Begins Next Week

Members of the public are invited to attend the December meeting of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council beginning Monday, December 5th at 1:30 pm and continuing through Friday, December 9th. The meeting will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Raleigh Brownstone (formally the Holiday Inn Brownstone). During the meeting, the Council is scheduled to approve three amendments to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan for submission to the Secretary of Commerce: **Amendment 18A** addressing overcapacity in the commercial **black sea bass** pot fishery and the reductions in the rate of harvest for both recreational and commercial sectors (to help extend the fishing season); **Amendment 20A** addressing the current Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) program for **wreckfish**; and **Amendment 24** to end overfishing of **red grouper** and rebuild the stock. The following **public comment sessions** will be held:

- Tuesday, December 6th at 5:30 pm - *Public hearing*
- Wednesday, December 7th at 5:30 pm - *Informal Question & Answer Session*
- Thursday, December 8 at 2 pm - *Public comment on any agenda item*

Additional information, including the meeting agenda, briefing book materials, and a link to the live video stream for the meeting is available from the the Council's [website](#).

PROCLAMATIONS: Details of proclamations are on NCDMF's website www.ncdenr.org

RE: FLOUNDER – COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS – ATLANTIC OCEAN

Effective at 12:01 A.M., Tuesday, November 1, 2011, the following restrictions shall apply to the commercial flounder fishery: I. HARVEST LIMITS During the period beginning at 12:01 A.M., Tuesday, November 1, 2011 and ending at 6:00 P.M., Saturday, December 31, 2011, no commercial fishing operation, regardless of the number of people involved, may have total landings of more than 10,000 pounds of flounder taken from the Atlantic Ocean. The Atlantic Ocean flounder fishery will close immediately after the Director issues a public notice that the fall quota of flounder has been landed from the Atlantic Ocean, or at 6:00 P.M., December 31, 2011, whichever occurs first.

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamation-ff-70-2011> **RE: SPOTTED SEATROUT**

COMMERCIAL

Effective **12:00 Noon, Friday, November 25, 2011**, the following will apply to spotted seatrout for commercial purposes: **I. SPOTTED SEATROUT RULE SUSPENSION North Carolina Marine Fisheries Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0504 (a) is suspended. II. MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT**

It is unlawful to possess spotted seatrout (speckled trout) less than **14 inches** total length. **III. HARVEST RESTRICTIONS** A. It is unlawful for a commercial fishing operation to possess more than **75 spotted seatrout per day**. B. It is unlawful for a commercial fishing operation to possess or sell spotted seatrout for commercial purposes taken from joint fishing waters of the state from midnight on Friday to **midnight**

on Sunday each week. C. It is unlawful to set gill nets in the joint fishing waters of the state from midnight on Friday to **midnight on Sunday each week.** <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamation-ff-79-2011>

RE: 2011/2012 MECHANICAL HARVEST OF CLAMS

Effective at **7:30 A.M., Monday, December 12, 2011**, the mechanical harvest of clams **WILL OPEN** with the following restrictions: **I. AREA DESCRIPTIONS**

ONSLOW/CARTERET COUNTIES Clams may be taken by mechanical methods in portions of Bogue Sound, New River, Newport River, North River and Core Sound indicated by the hatched areas shown on the attached maps.

II. HARVEST DAYS/TIMES For the two weeks starting **December 12 and December 19, 2011**, mechanical methods may be used **Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Beginning December 26, 2011**, and for the remainder of the season, mechanical methods may be used to take clams **Mondays through Wednesdays from 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. only** **III. HARVEST LIMITS** A.

In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Rule 15A NCAC 03K .0302(a), a maximum daily harvest of 3,750 clams (15 bags at 250 clams per bag) in possession will be allowed per commercial fishing operation on North River, Newport River and Bogue Sound. A maximum daily harvest of 5,000 clams (20 bags at 250 clams per bag) in possession will be allowed per fishing operation in Core Sound. A maximum daily harvest limit of 6,250 clams (25 bags at 250 clams per bag) in possession will be allowed per commercial fishing operation in New River. A daily harvest shall not exceed a cumulative total of 6,250 clams (25 bags at 250 clams per bag) per fishing operation in any coastal fishing waters, regardless of the harvest methods employed. B. No person shall transfer clams from the catching vessel to any other vessel or transport clams by any vessel other than the vessel from which they are caught.

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamation-sf-15-2011-2012>

Meetings:

Dec, 5 at 6 p.m.

Inland Regional Advisory Committee
Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, Raleigh
Contact: Randy Gregory

Email: Randy.Gregory@ncdenr.gov

Phone: 1-800-682-2632 or 252-808-8078

Dec. 6 at 6 p.m.

Northeast Regional Advisory Committee
Dare County Administration Building, Room 168 – 954 Marshall C Collins Drive, Manteo
Contact: Kathy Rawls

Email: Kathy.Rawls@ncdenr.gov

Phone: 1-800-338-7805 or 252-264-3911

December 5-9, 2011

SAFMC

Doubletree by Hilton Raleigh Brownstone

1707 Hillsborough Street

Raleigh, NC 27605

Phone: 1800/331-7919 or 919/828-0811 Fax: 919/834-0904

December 12/13 - 12/15

MAFMC

Kingsmill

1010 Kingsmill Road

Williamsburg, VA 23185

For more information on any item in this update, contact the NCFA office (252) 745-0225. Also, visit NCFA Website for breaking news and other issues concerning our industry. www.ncfish.org