

WEEKLY UPDATE: 12/22/11
NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
"Serving the Commercial Fishing Families of North Carolina since 1952"
Phone: (252) 745-0225 www.ncfish.org

CCA Plans All-Out Assault in Raleigh to push gamefish once again; The radical recreational group, CCANC, is planning to disrupt the new legislative study group (The Marine Fisheries Study Committee) that will meet in Raleigh on January 5th, 2012. The CCANC, in collaboration with its amen corner on the NC Marine Fisheries Commission, is pushing forward its agenda to eliminate sectors of the commercial fishing industry. The so-called Study Committee was established to replace the Seafood and Aquaculture Commission, which was created by the Fisheries Reform Act, and in replacing it make sure the CCA's agenda moves forward. It is interesting to note, there are no public representatives on the Study Committee, only general assembly appointments; men and women who are now going to substitute their agendas for the professional opinions of the many private citizens who helped write the Fisheries Reform Act. The NCMFC, as NCFCA reported a few weeks ago, is hell-bent on taking these anti-commercial steps to make the Study Group feel they are getting unbiased opinions from the Commission, when in fact the Commission is nothing more than a lap dog for the CCA. The meeting will take place in Raleigh on January 5th at 1pm in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. Further meetings are scheduled for February 2, March 1, and April 5th. The CCA plans to flood the meetings to show that North Carolina is behind destroying an industry so they can have more fun catching these fish. The CCA is urging every one of their members to contact as many people as possible and show up in Raleigh for the January meeting. They make their usual lying claims that gamefish will benefit the state, the recreational industry is worth more money, and the fish need protecting to bolster their sick agenda. Please make plans to be in Raleigh on January 5th and also **VERY IMPORTANT contact the members of the Study Group and say no to gamefish status. Please email them or have your wives and friends do so, they need to hear from our people NOW! Be polite, but be firm NO COMPROMISE NO GAMEFISH.**

Senator Harry Brown Harry.Brown@ncleg.net

Senator Don East Don.East@ncleg.net

Senator Thom Goolsby Thom.Goolsby@ncleg.net

Senator Bill Rabon bill.rabon@ncleg.net

Senator Tommy Tucker Tommy.Tucker@ncleg.net

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Rep. Bryan Holloway Bryan.Holloway@ncleg.net

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**Reminder of Seasonal Closure for
Shallow Water Grouper in the South Atlantic
Closure Begins January 1, 2012**

A seasonal prohibition on the harvest of shallow water snapper-grouper species in federal waters of the South Atlantic will be **effective 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2012, through April 30, 2012**, and applies to recreational and commercial harvest of shallow water grouper species. During this time, no gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, rock hind, red hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, and tiger grouper may be harvested, possessed, sold or purchased. The closure also applies to shallow water grouper taken in South Atlantic state waters by any person on board a vessel holding a

federal snapper-grouper permit, including a South Atlantic Charter/Headboat permit for Snapper-Grouper. www.safmc.net.

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

RE: SPINY DOGFISH-COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS

Effective at **12:01 A.M. Sunday, January 1, 2012** the following restrictions will apply to the harvest of spiny dogfish in the waters of North Carolina. **I. HARVEST LIMITS, AREAS AND TRIP LIMITS**

During the period beginning at **12:01 A.M., Sunday, January 1, 2012 and ending at 6:00 P.M., Tuesday, January 31, 2012**, the following trip limits apply to these geographic areas: **A. BROWNS INLET - NORTH** – No commercial fishing operation, regardless of the number of people involved, may possess more than **4,000 pounds of spiny dogfish per day east and north of a line** beginning at a point 34° 37.0000'N – 77° 15.000'W; running southeasterly to a point 34° 32.0000'N – 77° 10.0000'W. **B. BROWNS INLET- SOUTH** – No commercial fishing operation, regardless of the number of people involved, may possess more than **500 pounds of spiny dogfish per day west and south of a line** beginning at a point 34° 37.0000'N – 77° 15.000'W; running southeasterly to a point 34° 32.0000'N – 77° 10.0000'W. <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamation-ff-83-2011>

RE: FLOUNDER – COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS – ATLANTIC OCEAN

Effective at **12:01 A.M., Saturday, January 1, 2012**, the following restrictions shall apply to the commercial flounder fishery: **I. HARVEST LIMITS** During the period beginning at 12:01 A.M., Saturday, January 1, 2012 and ending at 6:00 P.M., Sunday, January 15, 2012, 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. These operations require a valid License to Land Flounder 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., January 15, 2012, whichever occurs first.

II. PERMITS A. Finfish dealers may not buy more than 100 pounds of flounder per day per commercial fishing operation unless the dealer has a valid 2012 Atlantic Ocean Flounder Dealer Permit. Vessels landing more than 100 pounds of flounder per day from the Atlantic Ocean are required to possess a valid License to Land Flounder from the Atlantic Ocean from the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. Permits will be issued only to those licensed fish dealers holding a valid license as authorized in G.S. 113-169.3. Dealers must abide by all conditions of the 2012 Atlantic Ocean Flounder Dealer Permit.

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamation-ff-87-2011>

RE: SCUP

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Effective at 12:01 A.M. Saturday, January 1, 2012, the following restrictions will apply to the commercial scup fishery in the Atlantic Ocean north of Cape Hatteras (35° 15' N. Latitude):

I. SIZE AND HARVEST LIMITS A. No person may take, possess, buy, sell or offer for sale scup less than 9 inches in length. B. No person may possess, sell or offer for sale more than 50,000 pounds of scup per trip when taken with commercial fishing equipment or for commercial purposes during the Winter I Harvest Period. **II. TRAWL MESH REQUIREMENTS** The minimum mesh size for the commercial scup fishery will be 5 inches stretched mesh with a minimum length of 75 meshes from the terminus of the net. For small nets with less than 75 mesh codends, the entire net will consist of 5 inch mesh.

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamation-ff-89-2011>

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM NCFA

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart.²⁰ Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them." Luke 2:8-20

Meetings: There are no meetings this week except with your family.

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