

# Chairman's Report





## **Fish, Nancy**

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**From:** Hensley, Michelle L  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2015 8:13 AM  
**To:** Fish, Nancy  
**Subject:** FW: Flounder

Michelle Hensley, Executive Assistant  
Director's Office  
NC Division of Marine Fisheries  
3441 Arendell Street/Post Office Box 769  
Morehead City, NC 28557-0769  
Phone: (252) 808-8013  
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[michelle.hensley@ncdenr.gov](mailto:michelle.hensley@ncdenr.gov)

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**From:** scott cutler [mailto:bugman42@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 7:25 PM  
**To:** Hensley, Michelle L <Michelle.Hensley@ncdenr.gov>  
**Subject:** Flounder

If you are all so concerned about our flounder fishery stop the gigging. These people are killing so many fish that the folks with hook and line don't have a chance. STOP GIGGING NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!

Scott L. Cutler

To: The North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission

From: Mac Currin  
Raleigh, NC

Date: August 27, 2015

I would like to provide comments on the Marine Fisheries Commission's (MFC) efforts to implement a Supplement to the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan. The MFC has no doubt been made aware of the long history of Southern Flounder (SF) management in our state. Since passage of the first FMP in 2005, previous commissions have taken inadequate measures to address overfishing of the Southern Flounder stock. From half-measures and "hope" to "hoping" that fairly onerous measures implemented as a result of a lawsuit over sea turtles, prior commissions have failed to enact measures to rebuild that important stock. I ruefully admit that I served on the MFC during those years of inadequate action.

I urge this MFC to pass measures that will finally end overfishing and rebuild the Southern Flounder stock. Of the options under consideration, I believe that the most beneficial would be to eliminate the use of large mesh gill nets for harvesting SF. Such action would still allow harvest by pound nets, so markets impacts would be small. Before the huge increase in gill net usage in the 1990s, pound nets were responsible for the vast majority of Southern Flounder landings and no doubt could handle the allowable catch. In addition there are several major associated benefits to having large mesh gill nets out of the water. 1) Gill net interactions with sea turtles are a growing problem and having the nets out of the water will greatly reduce fishing gear interactions with those animals. 2) I understand that DMF spends over a million dollars each year on observers to allow the large mesh gill net fishery to continue. 3) There would be by-catch reduction benefits. Along with some means to constrain the proliferation of pound net gear, that single management action would accomplish the management goal, greatly reduce sea turtle interactions, reduce by-catch and save the Division a considerable sum of money. That seems like a win, win, win, win, situation to me and there are not many of those in fisheries management.

I hope that the Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) will finally address long-term overfishing in the southern flounder fishery. It is blatantly obvious to me and extremely disappointing that the commercial fishing industry and their lobby (NCFA) has engendered action by some members of the legislature to stymie the MFC efforts to implement the much needed measures and to allow the commercial industry to continue its over-harvest of Southern Flounder.

Thank you for considering my comments as you put in place measures to stop overfishing and rebuild Southern Flounder stocks.

## **Fish, Nancy**

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**From:** Hensley, Michelle L  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 08, 2015 9:05 AM  
**To:** Fish, Nancy  
**Subject:** FW: reduction in southern flounder harvest

Michelle Hensley, Executive Assistant  
Director's Office  
N.C. Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Marine Fisheries  
3441 Arendell Street/Post Office Box 769  
Morehead City, NC 28557-0769  
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**From:** ANN SOMERS [mailto:[absomers@bellsouth.net](mailto:absomers@bellsouth.net)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 08, 2015 8:18 AM  
**To:** Hensley, Michelle L <[Michelle.Hensley@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Michelle.Hensley@ncdenr.gov)>  
**Subject:** reduction in southern flounder harvest

The citizens of North Carolina want the marine resources of our state protected. Sound science should influence the decisions. We need a drastic reduction on southern flounder harvest this season.

Ann Somers  
5631 N. Church St.  
Greensboro

## Fish, Nancy

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**From:** bill.hines@ec.rr.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 11:37 AM  
**To:** Nancy Fish - Marine Fisheries Commission  
**Subject:** Please ask DOT to stop spraying harmful chemical into our estuaries

Nancy,

Would you please forward this email to the commissioners.

Thanks,

Bill Hines  
Oriental, NC

Commissioners,

Please ask DOT to stop spraying harmful chemical into our estuaries.

The sides of our roads in Pamlico County look dead and very prone to catching fire. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) has sprayed Krenite herbicide into our drainage ditches and woods along the roads, many leading directly to our creeks and marshes. They did this to save money so they wouldn't need to use the boom mowers that trim the trees, but at what cost to Pamlico County and our fishing industry? Not everyone is aware of the fact that Pamlico County is the most productive estuary area on the East Coast of the US for fish, shrimp and crabs. With 2 rivers, over 70 creeks and countless bays and marshes, Pamlico County is the nursery for the seafood that is harvested in the Pamlico Sound and much of the Atlantic Ocean. Each spring we have a bloom of aquatic grass in our creeks. Power boaters will complain that these grasses are fouling their props but what they are really doing is sheltering and feeding the latest generation of fish, shrimp and crabs. This year we had a very health growth of these grasses, which resulted in a good year for our commercial and recreational fishermen. The Krenite is a herbicide that kills plants. With it flowing directly into our creeks, will it kill the aquatic grass there? What will it do in our creeks and marshes, and how will that impact on our aquatic wildlife, our duck and geese populations and our fishing industry, especially next year? If the DOT needs to save money can't they do that in areas of the State that are not fragile estuaries?

I drove several of the roads in Craven, Carteret and Beaufort Counties looking to see if they were also using Krenite to kill the weeds along their roads, but could find no evidence of it's use in those counties. I was able to find out from our county DOT that the chemicals were applied by NCDOT Roadside Environmental Unit (REU) who's Mission Statement is - "To provide roadside elements for a statewide highway system that are safe, environmentally sound, attractive and responsive to the public's needs."

Since Krenite is not supposed to turn foliage brown I asked what other chemicals were used and it turns out it was a mixture of Krenite, Triclopyr 3, and Element 4. We know that Krenite is designed to keep plants from growing leaves in the next growing season and can have an effect for up to five years. The worry with Krenite is not that it will kill the aquatic life but that it will impact on our spring bloom of grasses in our creeks which is an important source of food and habitat for each years crop of fish, crabs and shrimp. The two other chemicals are even more worrisome. Element 4 "Do not apply directly to open water, highly toxic to aquatic organisms." (source: Penn State College of Agriculture). Triclopyr 3 "Due to the high chemical properties of this product, it is not recommended for use on permeable soil, as it can seep in and contaminate the ground. This product is also effective in treating water weeds, however users should be aware that it may harm pond fish and other aquatic life." (source: Phoenix Environmental Design, Inc. product vendor). "Triclopyr can move through soil and has the potential to contaminate groundwater." "Triclopyr ranges from practically non-toxic to highly toxic to fish, depending on the fish species and the triclopyr formulation " (source: National Pesticide Information Center).

What the scientific data seems to suggest is that what was sprayed on our roadside ditches can contaminate ground water, harmful to fish and aquatic life and will impact on our aquatic grasses that support our young fish, shrimp and crabs.

As a county that support it's main livelihoods of Farming, Forestry and Fishing the use of a product designed to kill weeds that will go from the ditches into our creeks and ground water are they endangering many a commercial fishermen livelihood. The state office of NCDOT Roadside Environmental Unit needs to consider what impact they can have on one of our major sources of income for a lot of hard work people in Pamlico County.

Please ask the DOT to stop spraying harmful chemicals into our estuaries.

Thanks  
Bill Hines – Creek Keeper  
Oriental, NC  
252-571-0264

# Attention!!

## Southern Flounder Fishery!!!

We Petitioners, (Commercial Fisherman, Restaurant Owners, Retail Markets, and Consumers of the Southern Flounder), are opposed to any and all proposals that will significantly reduce the harvest of Southern Flounder. The reduction or closure to this important economic fishery will be devastating to families, businesses and most of all, the consumer!! The closure of the Southern Flounder Fishery will result in tremendous economic loss to the states coastal communities and removal of flounder from restaurant's menus. A loss that we are NOT willing to accept! Especially without any studies or factual data completed, by the state of N.C., to support a reduction or closure to the Southern Flounder Commercial Harvest. This petition will be delivered to Sammy Corbett, Chair  
 NC Marine Fisheries Commission  
 3441 Arendell Street  
 Morehead City, NC 28557  
 By Andrew Berry

Name	Email &/or Mailing Address	Phone #	Voter Y/N
JOHN THOMAS	1357 B Souter Church Rd Eliz. City NC	252-339-7991 252-330-2101	
Charles Smith	508 Pointe Vista Dr. Morehead City, N.C.	252-330-4943	
DONG THANH VO	287 WIND WOOD DR	(252) 330-9912	
Hung Dieu TRAN	352 Frog Island	<del>(252)</del>	
Tanner Allen Le	282 Frog Island R.D.		
Jeremy Nolan Phelps	1316 Soundside Rd		
Kenny Nguyen	335 Frog Island Rd	252-455-8399	(No)
Thuy Nguyen	335 Frog Island Rd	252-455-8761	
Walter Leg Meade	934 Selly Rd. Eliz. City N.C.	252-338-6934	



Name	Email &/or Mailing Address	Phone # <span style="float: right;">Voter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y/N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></span>
Bobby Mowbr	701 <sup>Comm Rd</sup> DUFFER RD	252-330-2702
Curtis Beach	1098 FL. Rd Eliz. City	252-334-7118
Shirley White	1467 Nixonton Road Elizabeth City, NC 27909	252-264-2008 ✓
<del>Anthony</del>	2590 Pearl River Road Elizabeth City NC 27909	252-207-5021
Keesha White	112 Bogues Beach Lane Frog Island - NC	
Victor White	112 Bogues Beach Lane Elizabeth City NC 27909	
Buddy <sup>Truck</sup> <del>White</del>	buddyjaper29@me.com Frog ISLAND	252-455-0098 ✓
Avery White	1518 Nixonton Rd Frog Island	
Michelle White	100 Bogues Beach Lane	252-264-4003
Kaleb Bradley	100 Bogues Beach Ln	252-264-4003
Brittany May	1449 Nixonton Road	312-9283
Travis Harris	1449 Nixonton Road	252-562-5578
Tommy May		252-722-4001
Darlene May	119 Moonlight Trail	252-333-4021
Opie W Bundy	183 Chapandole Rd. <sup>Hart Road</sup> NC	252-312-6344
Sarah H. Rendleton	Nixonton Rd. EC NC 27909	252-562-5577
Please let us keep fishing!!!		



# REMINDER

## MANDATORY EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

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### MANDATORY EDUCATION.

**Public Servants and Ethics Liaisons.** The State Government Ethics Act *requires* that every public servant and ethics liaison complete an ethics and lobbying education presentation/program approved by the State Ethics Commission *within 6 months* of the person's election, reelection, appointment, or employment **and** complete a refresher ethics presentation *at least every two years thereafter*.

The willful failure of a public servant serving on a board to comply with the education requirements may subject the person to removal from the board. The willful failure of a public servant who is a State employee to comply with the education requirement may be considered a violation of a written work order permitting disciplinary action. Therefore, if there are public servants in your agency or on your covered state board or commission who are past due for completing their ethics education requirements, **those individuals should attend a live presentation, distance video-streamed presentation or complete the online education as soon as possible.**

**Legislators.** The State Government Ethics Act *requires* that every legislator complete an ethics and lobbying education presentation/program approved by the State Ethics Commission and the Legislative Ethics Committee *within 2 months* of either the convening of the General Assembly to which the legislator is elected or the legislator's appointment, whichever is later, **and** complete a refresher ethics education presentation *at least every two years thereafter*.

The willful failure of a legislator to comply with these education requirements may subject the legislator to sanctions under the Legislative Ethics Act.

**Legislative Employees.** The State Government Ethics Act *requires* that every legislative employee complete an ethics and lobbying education presentation/program approved by the State Ethics Commission and the Legislative Ethics Committee *within 3 months* of the person's employment **and** complete a refresher ethics education presentation *at least every two years thereafter*.

The willful failure of a legislative employee to comply with these education requirements may subject the person to disciplinary action by their hiring authority.

**Legislators and Legislative Employees** may check the status of their ethics education by going to the General Assembly intra-net page. Legislators and legislative employees who are past due for completing their ethics education requirements should contact Denise Adams with the Research Division of the General Assembly at [denise.adams@ncleg.net](mailto:denise.adams@ncleg.net) or 919-301-1991 to coordinate/schedule their ethics education training.

## **ETHICS AND LOBBYING EDUCATION TRAINING.**

**Public Servants and Ethics Liaisons** may complete the required basic or refresher ethics and lobbying education training by either attending a live presentation, a distance video streamed presentation or completing the online education modules.

- **Live and Distance Video-Streamed Presentation Dates.** The State Ethics Commission has scheduled live ethics and lobbying education presentations and distance video-streamlined presentations for the remainder of 2014. Dates, locations, and registration information are on the Commission's website at:  
[www.ethicscommission.nc.gov/education/eduSchedule.aspx](http://www.ethicscommission.nc.gov/education/eduSchedule.aspx).
- **Online Education.** The State Ethics Commission also offers online ethics and lobbying education. The education modules and instructions are on the Commission's website at:  
[www.ethicscommission.nc.gov/education/eduOnline.aspx](http://www.ethicscommission.nc.gov/education/eduOnline.aspx).

**Legislators** may complete the required basic or refresher ethics and lobbying education training by attending a live presentation at the beginning of the legislative session jointly provided by the Ethic Commission and the Research Division of the General Assembly.

**Legislative Employees** may complete the required basic or refresher ethics and lobbying education training by going online to the General Assembly intra-net page.

## **REGISTRATION AND QUESTIONS.**

- **Public Servants and Ethics Liaisons** please contact Sue Lundberg at (919) 715-2071 or by e-mail at [Education.Ethics@doa.nc.gov](mailto:Education.Ethics@doa.nc.gov) to register for ethics and lobbying education training or if you have ethics education questions.
- **Legislators and Legislative Employees** please contact the General Assembly ethics hotline at 919-301-1991 or email Denise Adams at [denise.adams@ncleg.net](mailto:denise.adams@ncleg.net) if you have questions about the ethics and lobbying education training or have ethics education questions.

Thank you for giving this matter your immediate attention and for sharing this information with all members of your covered board, commission or committee, all staff and employees covered under the State Government Ethics Act, and all legislators and legislative employees.

## 2016 Meeting Planning Calendar

January						
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- MFC
- ASMFC
- SAFMC
- MAFMC
- State Holiday
- Sea Turtle AC

- Southern Regional AC
- Northern Regional AC
- Finfish AC
- Habitat and Water Quality AC
- Shellfish/Crustacean AC