



MFC fails to act on supplemental plan

By David Sneed
CCA NC Executive Director

The 2015 legislative session became infamous for a lot of North Carolinians because of the time it took the House and Senate to agree on a budget for the next two years. It also was very stressful for conservationists with the multitude of seemingly minor legislative initiatives hidden beneath the headlines.

The most blatant power grab was the attempt by Sen. Bill Cook (R-Beaufort) to have Section 14.10E

included in the Senate's version of the appropriations bill. Among other things, it sought to repeal the Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) legislation from 2014, remove the For-Hire Logbook requirement from 2013, and in the most aggressive move of the legislative session, it sought to stop the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission's Southern flounder supplement by implementing a moratorium on all supplements until the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries could conduct a study of the supplement process, or July 2016, whichever was later.

CCA NC spent a lot of time throughout the summer providing information to legislators and their constituents to make sure they were well-educated on the importance of allowing the MFC to move forward with the Southern flounder process. There are several more articles in the pages of this newsletter on the Southern flounder supplement so I will not dwell too long on the subject other than to say that without the support of Reps. John Bell (R-Wayne), Jimmy Dixon

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Reward in turtle death generates few clues in case

By Rip Woodin
CCA NC Editor

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has no leads on who killed a juvenile loggerhead sea turtle July 26 on the Portsmouth flats of North Core Banks, said Lt. Sam Craft, a spokesman for the enforcement division.

"We have not received any information" that might lead to a suspect, Craft said. The WRC sent out a news release to all media contacts statewide with details about the death of the turtle from human inflicted blunt force trauma to the brain.

The N.C. Wildlife Federation, the Coastal Conservation Association of N.C., and a private individual have donated \$7,500 as a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever killed the turtle. The crime is a felony punishable by a fine up to \$100,000.

Craft said he couldn't speculate why the reward has not generated any leads. "Maybe no one witnessed it," he said.

The juvenile female sea turtle, weighing about 70 pounds and a little longer than two feet, was alive when it was found by a Nation-



A juvenile loggerhead sea turtle found July 26 on the Portsmouth flats of North Core Banks died from human inflicted blunt force trauma to the brain.

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TURTLE

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al Park Service ranger. After treatment by doctors at the NCSU vet school, the loggerhead was stable on July 28 and transferred to the year-old Sea Turtle Assistance and Rehabilitation Center at the N.C. Aquarium on Roanoke Island. The following morning, however, the turtle was unresponsive. It was given pain medicine and allowed to die, according to a report by the NCSU Center for Marine Sciences and Technology.

Both state and federal law enforcement agencies are investigating the malicious death of the loggerhead since all sea turtles are on the federal and state

Endangered Species lists.

Anyone having information about the identity of the person responsible for this criminal act should call the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission on its toll-free hotline at 1-800-662-7137. WRC wardens and N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries patrol officers will investigate all information keeping the source strictly confidential.

If the information received leads to the apprehension and prosecution of the culprit, the anonymous source will receive the reward. Information from the veterinarians and scientists involved indicate that the sea turtle had to be restrained while in the water, likely by some sort of fishing gear, and then struck in the head with a blunt object before being left to die. "Absence of hook, line, net,

net marks or line marks, do not rule out any form of capture and immobilization, because gear often does not leave visible marks on sea turtles even when they are retrieved by observers or onlookers from known gear types," the report explained.

There was no sign of more distributed trauma that would be consistent with a boat strike, the veterinarians wrote. "It is difficult to devise a plausible explanation for the focus, shape and severity of the fractures other than an intentional malicious blow to the head with something like a hammer to a turtle that was not free-swimming at the time."

Speaking for CCA NC, Bob Lorenz said, "We have all seen the reports of sea turtles drowning after being caught in gill nets or even sea turtle interactions involving hook and line fishermen. Most

of the general public, however, cannot begin to imagine why someone would hit a sea turtle in the head with such force as to crush its skull and then just leave it to die."

The turtle finding comes at a time when large mesh gillnet use in many North Carolina waters, including the Core Sound area where the turtle was found, is being closed until Sept. 1 or perhaps later due to interactions with sea turtles that occurred earlier during summer 2015, Lorenz said. "North Carolina is the only southern state that allows large mesh monofilament gillnets in estuarine waters where sea turtles roam. Turtles are also caught up during Pamlico Sound and ocean shrimp trawling, though Turtle Excluder Devices aid significantly in reducing the number captured."

MFC

From Page 1

(R-Duplin), Pat McElrath (R-Carteret), and ultimately Speaker Tim Moore's office, and Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger's office, this attempt by Sen. Cook would have derailed the supplement process with one paragraph inserted into a 500-page budget document.

Thanks to continual leadership from Rep. Bell and Speaker Moore, and a last minute intervention from Sen. Berger, the Southern flounder supplement survived legislative efforts to kill it in the budget. You, as the public, spoke up and your representatives listened. Thank you.

Senate Bill 374 introduced again by Sen. Bill Cook, with support from Sen. Norm Sanderson (R-Pamlico), and Reps. Chris Millis (R-Pender) and Michael Speciale (R-Craven) was able to pass with new legislation that repealed the DMF efforts to implement a For-Hire Captains Logbook and repeal the DMF Director's authority to enter into a Joint Enforcement Agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Again, there is a full story on the repeal of the JEA on the next page. Throughout the last two years of debate and education on the JEA, I have yet to hear a good argument for why we as a state would oppose a Joint Enforcement Agreement.



Photo courtesy of Robyn Eiler

Last-minute negotiations staved off legislative intervention into MFC resource management role.

So while CCA NC was focused on fisheries related legislation, the anti-resources legislation did not stop with our state's coastal marine resources. There was a rather large piece of legislation introduced as House Bill 44 that included provisions that would reduce riparian buffer rules along our wetlands, marsh-

es, rivers and sounds, and rollback clean water and pollution runoff protection efforts. CCA NC joined with clean water conservation groups like Sound Rivers (the newly combined Pamlico-Tar River Foundation and Neuse River Keeper groups) and the N.C. Coastal Federation to oppose any new legislation that would

ultimately result in poorer water quality for our coastal estuarine waters.

The final piece of legislation that caught our attention this summer was an attempt to add an additional fee onto commercial and recreational boats longer than 24 feet to help pay for inlet dredging.

So while teacher pay and Medicaid reform dominated the headlines across much of the state, rest assured that CCA NC was on the job in Raleigh working to preserve pro-resource efforts and fight back against forces that would put the profits of the few above the conservation of our precious public trust resources. This year, we welcomed the alliance of the N.C. Wildlife Federation on coastal marine conservation issues, and saw how our combined numbers and voices reached into a General Assembly that has been dominated by commercial fishing interests for at least three decades.

A General Assembly that has turned a blind eye and deaf ear for too long on the failure of our state's fisheries management is finally paying attention to the economic and moral importance of conserving our coastal treasures for the benefit of a future generation of North Carolinians to enjoy. Now is the time to continue to grow our numbers and our voices in Raleigh while your elected leaders are just starting to listen. CCA NC plans to stay vigilant in our fight and hope you will continue to stand with us.

CCA NC honors Carter, Jordan as top volunteers

By Rip Woodin
CCA NC Editor

Rocky Carter of Swansboro and Hodge Jordan of Jacksonville were named CCA NC's volunteers of the year during a recent board meeting, announced David Sneed, executive director of the statewide marine fisheries conservation organization.

"The Coastal Conservation Association board was having a difficult time picking the Doug and Bonnie Hoffman Volunteer of the Year so it decided to recognize two stellar candidates," Sneed explained.

Jordan is among the most active contributors to the Onslow Bay chapter of CCA NC, Sneed said.

Besides being the cornerstone of the fundraising banquet, Jordan has organized the group's annual Wounded Warrior Fishing Day for the past two years.

The annual event treats a dozen Marines from the nearby Camp Lejeune Wounded Warrior Battalion to a day of guided fishing in boats captained by CCA members.

The Wounded Warriors are given shirts and hats to commemorate the day then honored at a dinner with their families.

"The event creates a lot of community support for both the veterans and CCA goals," Sneed said.

Jordan doesn't limit his volunteerism to just CCA. A retired master gunnery sergeant (E-9) in the Marines' Force



JORDAN

CARTER

Reconnaissance, he mentors high school students teaching them marksmanship, firearm safety and hunter education. His wife, Rita, is a teacher in the Jacksonville school district and daughter, Emily, is a freshman at ECU.

"Rocky Carter should have his picture in the dictionary beside the word volunteer," Sneed continued.

He has led the Onslow Bay chapter to be an outstanding organization from the start. Its 2014 banquet, the first one in Swansboro, had almost 400 attendees to meet artists Bob Timberlake and Eddie Bridges, Sneed said.

In addition to Carter's work with the Onslow Bay group, he was instrumental in reviving the Triad chapter with a well-attended banquet earlier this year.

As a member of the state board's executive committee, Carter has taken on multiple assignments to help the organization reach its goals.

"His mind never stops working when it comes to the question, 'What can CCA do next?'"

Sneed said. "He's a great asset to CCA NC."



Photo courtesy of N.C. Sportsman

Spawning areas would enhance the snapper-grouper fishery off the N.C. coast.

Spawning zones considered

For the offshore ocean south of Hatteras, the majority of fishing regulations are set by the National Marine Fisheries Service through the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC). Leadership of the SAFMC Council is changing during September. Ben Hartig, a commercial fisherman from Hobe Sound, FL will step down as chairman and will likely be replaced by Dr. Michelle Duval, PhD from our N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

The vote for the leadership change will occur during the SAFMC meeting Sept. 14-18 in Hilton Head, S.C. When you get word of Michelle's election, offer her your congratulations. Michelle has worked hard for a number of years within the

SAFMC for our state's ocean fishing interests. In addition to Michelle, the representatives for N.C. on the SAFMC are Jack



BOB
LORENZ
SAFMC
Advisory panel

Cox, (commercial), and Anna Beckwith, (recreational). Both Jack and Anna are from Morehead City.

There are currently two hot items on SAFMC's agenda. It is continuing a "visioning" process, which is essentially a master plan how the SAFMC will manage fisheries in the years forward. It is not unlike the strategic and operating plan that most major

corporations produce periodically.

The most controversial item is a proposal referred to as Amendment 36 – Spawning Special Management Zones (SMZs). The focus is for the snapper-grouper complex. Amendment 36 will designate certain areas of the offshore ocean as special or prime habitat for spawning and give fish sanctuary. No bottom fishing or anchoring will be allowed in these areas on a year round basis. Surface trolling for pelagic species would be allowed. Amendment 36 is different from the classic fish sanctuaries in that the areas are selected due to superior habitat for spawning and fry growth with

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CCA NC is a non-profit community of recreational anglers working to protect our marine resources for future generations to experience and enjoy.

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Check out our website at
www.ccanc.org to join us
in our fight to preserve
recreational angling for
future generations. Annual
memberships are available
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Politics trumps protection in flounder proposal

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Many pro-resource North Carolinians left the May 2015 MFC meeting in New Bern with high hopes. After all, the commission had considered all available data and concluded that a fish species very important to our state, the southern flounder, was in real trouble and they were dead serious about properly addressing it.

It should be noted that the problem with flounder isn't a new one as data shows they have been overfished for 20 years. Even so, in past years the issue wasn't addressed, and the result was the sound of a tin can being kicked a bit further down a gravel road.

The commission in May had discussed and voted to consider six possible options to address the problem. Thankfully, several of the options contained requirements that had real and necessary reductions tied to them. Finally, N.C. citizens were seeing light at the end of the tunnel in the form of proposed regulations that could realistically save our beloved southern flounder.

Skip forward to August and the most recent meeting of the MFC in Raleigh. At this meeting the commissioners were to discuss the six options and actually vote one of or a variation of the six into regulatory law. This was going to be a watershed event, and we'd all see real fisheries reform in N.C.

Well, not so quickly because just hours before the Friday morning vote, a small group of legislators determined they were better equipped to manage the fishery than the qualified individuals that Gov. Pat McCrory had appointed to the Commission. This small

This letter communicated to the commissioners that their vote would be closely watched and if deemed inappropriate would be addressed legislatively. The result: A critical, time-sensitive vote to protect a prized N.C. public trust resource was postponed and politics had once again trumped protection.



GREG
HURT
Chairman

As of this writing in mid September, the postponed vote has not occurred. In fact, the meeting to execute the vote hasn't even been scheduled. I can share with you that the outcry from recreational fishermen and pro-resource citizens has been unprecedented and CCA NC has proudly led that charge. It should also be noted that an appreciable number of legislators over on Jones Street understand that what occurred just wasn't appropriate and they are actively involved in making things right. That said, it just shouldn't be so hard for the state to protect one of its resources that's screaming for help.

I'm hopeful that by the time you read this newspaper the outcome will be history, and the southern flounder and its advocates will be celebrating victory. Just maybe we will have turned the corner in the way we manage our fisheries.

By nature, I'm an optimistic guy. But with North Carolina's history in dealing with issues such as this, I'm concerned that I may still hear the faint sound of that tin can being kicked a bit further down that gravel road.

Till our wakes cross again,

SPAWNING

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an historical record of being so.

Snapper/grouper species are currently managed mostly through season closures and size limits.

The biggest cyclical closure is that for 10 grouper species from Jan. 1 through April 30 during the grouper spawning season. Amendment 36 is a plan to obtain greater diversity within the snapper/grouper populations.

More focus will be on conserving big fish by providing year-round sanctuary on the best breeding and nursery structure.

It also helps address a problem with lethal regulatory discards. A majority of fishery regulations focus on saving the little guys. Newer fishery management thinking argues we need to save some large females for big spawns and some large males for a

Visioning process and special spawning zones for snapper and grouper are two of the main topics on the SAFMC agenda.

healthy gene pool favoring bigger fish.

The spawning SMZs are expected to allow a few areas of prime bottom structure to develop fish populations, sizes and ages more representative of what nature would provide without the effects of fishing.

When caught in deep offshore water (deeper than 90 feet), many of the undersized fish released die. This is often due to barotrauma that causes fish bloat and stops them from getting back to the bottom. The thinking is that spawning SMZs will become hotspots of populations for snap-

pers/groupers, and result in some juveniles and large specimens moving out and populating other structure.

Amendment 36 has a "sunset provision". The management technique will be tried for 10 years then success will be evaluated. The spawning SMZs could be reinstated, continued or eliminated depending upon results. If successful, the spawning SMZs may allow for more liberal snapper and grouper fishing regulations on less valuable nearby structure in the future.

There are four spawning SMZs targeted for N.C. offshore waters. Three of them are located 32, 33, or 42 miles from Ocracoke Inlet in water from 171 to 525 feet deep. A third is 64 miles off South Inlet in 246 to 453 feet of water. For more information, visit the SAFMC website.

Bob Lorenz is the recreational fishing representative for N.C. on SAFMC Snapper-Grouper Advisory Panel and a vice president of CCA NC.

Legislators smell fishy with MFC intervention

The (Raleigh) News & Observer

CRUCIAL VIEW

Flounder don't vote, but lawmakers are still supposed to represent their best interests. For in a coastal state like North Carolina, a thriving fishery resource is good for the entire state.

But that's not what's happening in the case of a type of flounder, the southern flounder, that is a mainstay of recreational and commercial fishing in the sounds and estuaries of North Carolina.

The flat, oval-shaped fish typically range from 15 to 18 inches and are good eating and much in demand. Last year, commercial fishermen hauled in 1.7 millions pounds of southern flounder they sold to the seafood industry for \$4.8 million.

That big harvest year after year is taking a toll.

Some surveys indicate that the southern flounder has been heavily over-fished and that its population is nearing collapse as commercial fishing increasingly takes more fish that have not yet spawned.

The situation was dire enough that the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources agreed to ask the state Marine Fisheries Commission to consider a temporary measure, known as a "supplement" to the fish management plan, that would limit the taking of southern flounder.

That was an encouraging sign of the state's environmental regulatory system working properly to address a threat to a natural resource.

The process broke down when 13 state legislators wrote to the DENR Secretary Donald van der Vaart



objecting to the imposition of limits.

They said that the southern flounder population has not been assessed beyond North Carolina and

that limits on commercial fishing method would be premature.

On the eve of the commission's vote last month, Rep. Bob Steinburg (R-Chowan) went before the commission to remind the nine commissioners – all appointed by the governor – that lawmakers did not want immediate limits imposed on commercial fishing operations.

When a commission member asked Steinburg whether he was making a threat, Steinburg said he simply was making sure the process would be fair.

The commission decided to postpone the vote until Sept. 16, but the issue could be moot by then.

Provisions inserted into the state Senate budget would suspend the commission's ability to issue amendments.

If the provisions survive in a state budget passed before the Sept. 16 vote, the commission will be unable to do anything to halt the dangerous overfishing of southern flounder.

This is an issue that goes well beyond the fate of a certain fish.

It shines a light on an attitude toward governance. Lawmakers should not be intervening in the regulatory process to protect business interests.

DENR and the Marine Fisheries Commission have their roles and should be able to work without legislative intimidation.

This kind of blunt intervention endangers a natural resource and raises questions about the integrity of regulation whenever it conflicts with industry profits.

Commercial, recreational fishermen share equal blame

A century years ago, most folks on the coast farmed and commercially fished. It was never a problem because this area was sparsely populated, and people understood fishing was a part of surviving. Today, that is no longer true.

The number of people who have made our coast their home is staggering. Hundreds of thousands of homes and condominiums have been built in coastal counties in the past 25 years. Many of these people are retired or have disposable income that allows them to fish.

Interstates and major highways have been built specifically to facilitate the vast number of people who go to the coast, some primarily to fish on weekends. The increased pressure on the fish has been grossly overlooked and misunderstood.

Today, commercial fishermen are much more efficient at catching fish due to advanced electronics, better boats, bigger nets, years of experience, plus the

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Internet. Recreational fishermen now have access to better electronics, bigger, faster boats, detailed fishing charts, plus the Internet. All species of fish have been impacted by these facts.

The long-term fisheries management plans we have seen in the past are to reduce recreational limits and restrict the allowable hours of netting. These measures have failed our fisheries.

Scientific data are insufficient and inaccurate, claim the commercial interests. Illegal nets and a readily available cash crop are destroying the resource, cry the recreational crowd. Unfortunately, the fish lose. Legislators now intervene to force continued over harvesting of our state's most sought after fish, the southern

flounder, failing to provide any meaningful hope of restoring this once great fishery.

"Why," you might ask. Have we not learned any lessons over the past 100 years? I guess not, if there is a dollar to be made. Just look at stripers, trout, red fish, river herring, grouper, gray trout and snapper, to name a few. All were netted or caught for money until they were depleted. What needs to happen for our state to accept the fact, "fisheries are unsustainable under our current management structure"? Now is the time for change.

Rocky Carter
Swansboro, N.C.
CCA NC board member

Editor's note: This letter was sent to Rep. Phil Shepard (R-Onslow), Rep. George Cleveland (R-Onslow) and Sen. Harry Brown (R-Onslow).

Governor, legislature block federal JEA

By Rip Woodin
CCA NC Editor

The legislature and governor ignored a request from the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission to sign a deal with the National Marine Fisheries Service that would have allowed state officers to enforce federal regulations in both inshore and offshore waters, said Bob Lorenz, vice president of CCA NC.

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission approved a Joint Enforcement Agreement with the NMFS in 2014 then twice sent letters to Gov. Pat McCrory and legislative leaders asking them to approve it. The agreement would have brought \$300,000 to \$400,000 in federal funds to the N.C. Marine Patrol when at times last year their boats were docked for a lack of gas money, Lorenz said.

A Joint Enforcement Agreement would have allowed for more seamless enforcement of fisheries laws and regulations between the National Marine Fisheries Services, the U.S. Coast Guard, NCDMF, and Marine Patrol, Lorenz explained.

"The state and federal organizations could work as one to enforce each other's fisheries laws and regulations," he added.

Senate Bill 374, a two-page law sponsored by Sen. Bill Cook, a Republican representing the northeastern coastal counties, forbids the director of the NCDMF from entering such an agreement and instead requires a 12-month study to look at the benefits of a JEA. Currently, North Carolina is one of the few coastal states that doesn't participate in a JEA. The legislature passed it in late July and McCrory signed it into law in August.

"This will make the job of our underfunded Marine Patrol even more difficult, and gives a greater competitive edge to those who poach our marine resources, fisheries and violate federal fisheries law," Lorenz said. SB 374 gives wiggle room for those who violate fisheries regulations by allowing some safe harbor from pursuit, investigation and potential arrest due to sharp jurisdictional lines, he added.

As an example, Lorenz cited the



Dead striped bass accidentally dumped from a trawler float in the water in 2011 off the Outer Banks.

"This will make the job of our underfunded Marine Patrol even more difficult, and gives a greater competitive edge to those who poach our marine resources, fisheries and violate federal fisheries law."

Bob Lorenz
CCANC board member

"striped bass dump" off Dare County in January 2011. This dump was apparently an accident from an overloaded net, but was noted nationwide by sport fisherman, he continued. There was pressure on NCDMF to assure that this type

of event does not happen again. The commanding officer from USCG Sector North Carolina, in charge of federal fisheries law enforcement, made a presentation to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission in May 2011— at its request.

The biggest problem the USCG had in enforcing a regulation where commercial trawling for striped bass is illegal in federal waters was the lack of a JEA, Lorenz said. The USCG officer explained they can spot a violator in federal waters, but by the time the Coast Guard arrives alongside the violating vessel to take action, the vessel usually moves within state waters where trawling for striped bass is legal. Or if there are few fish, the trawler dumps the catch, Lorenz said recalling the officer's presentation.

"Once an offender's vessel is in state waters, or if dumped fish sink, the USCG largely loses most of their ability to fine or prosecute a violation due to jurisdiction or loss of probable cause," he explained.

The investigation of a crime, such as the loggerhead sea turtle whose skull

was bashed during July by a "blunt object such as a hammer," could be enhanced if a JEA allowed for more seamless integration between NCDMF, Marine Patrol, and NMFS, Lorenz said, citing the recent turtle killing. "NMFS has the major responsibility for protecting sea turtles through the Endangered Species Act — not our NCDMF. Historically, NMFS has pushed the state to protect sea turtles from fishing operations," Lorenz said. It is notable that protection of sea turtles has provided the biggest unanticipated collateral relief from southern flounder gill netting to date in N.C.

Commercial fishing organizations have opposed a JEA since the state's Marine Fisheries Commission first started discussing the idea, Lorenz said. The federal government gives N.C. an opportunity each year to sign on and receive funding.

"Write your legislators and state your support of a JEA and how it could enhance responsible, competitive and fair fisheries management," he urged.

First CCA NC shootout a successful blast

By Rip Woodin
CCA NC Editor

The first Sportsman's Conservation Legacy Shootout held Aug. 29 at Drake Landing near Fuquay-Varina could raise as much as \$19,000 to protect marine resources, said David Sneed, executive director of CCA NC.

"Proceeds from the Sportsman's Conservation Legacy Shootout stay in North Carolina to support CCA's education and conservation efforts right here at home," Sneed said.

"We also introduced the concept of a Sustaining Life Member Society for CCA NC during the Shootout. The CCA Life Member program includes a Heritage level for a gift of \$5,000 and a Legacy level for a gift of \$10,000," he said.

The CCA NC Sustaining Life Member Society creates a fellowship of our most generous supporters who are willing to pledge \$1,000 a year toward becoming first a Heritage Life Member by reaching the \$5,000 level, and finally becoming a Legacy Life Member by completing a cumulative payment of \$10,000, Sneed said.

The CCA NC fundraising event drew 68 competitors to the Drake Landing sporting clay range along with a small but vocal group of spectators cheering on their favorite team, Sneed said.

The Nationwide Insurance four-person team led by Billy Byrd of Greenville won the event. His shooters included Dick Brame, Chuck Laughridge and Tom Roller Sr.

Chris Smith's Grady White team from Greenville was second followed in third by the Downeast team called Clay Conservation Association put together by Chris Elkins of Atlantic. Dlon Downing and Don Price were two of the top individual shooters.

Grady White Boats and PotashCorp were the major sponsors of the Shootout, Sneed continued, and deserve a big "thank you" for making this inaugural event happen. "We absolutely could not have done this without their support," he added.

To help the shooters get off to a good start, CCA NC brought in three professionals — Clark Hutchinson, an international competitor from Bogue Banks, Mike Oliver from Hunter's Point in



Photos courtesy of Callie Freeman

At left, Tom Roller of Morehead City kicks up the dust on a low-flying sporting clay in August during the CCA NC's first fund-raising shootout at Drake Landing near Fuquay-Varina. Bottom left, the winning team received a statue, rods and other fishing gear as prizes. Below right, competitors get tips on how to shoot the fast-moving targets.



Washington and Larry Corbett from Rose Hill near Nashville — to give instruction.

The pros were auctioned joining three teams in the competition, Sneed said. "We owe these guys a special thanks for volunteering their time to make this event a success," he said.

"The weather was good, the food was great and everyone had fun," Sneed concluded. "We look forward to next year."



CCA NC event schedule



CCA NC chapters host a series of banquets and events during the year to raise money for resource conservation. All money raised stays in North Carolina to fund various CCA programs, DMF marine patrol equipment, student scholarships, legislative lobbying, fisheries study and administrative expense.

Each banquet has a silent and live auction for every type of item from tires and coolers to guided trips and guns. And, oh yes, fishing rods, lots of fishing rods. The live auction features inshore fishing trips donated by some of North Carolina's best guides; Costa Rica, Texas and Great Lakes fishing trips; a St. Thomas vacation package; jewelry; unique furniture and artwork.

Doors open at 6 p.m., for a cocktail hour followed by dinner and the auctions. For more information on what is available in your area or to purchase tickets, please call any of these chapter contacts. Individual, couples and sponsor tickets are available. Each ticket includes a one-year membership in the Coastal Conservation Association and a free subscription to its award-winning fisheries magazine, *TIDE*.

Here is the remainder of the fall schedule, location and contact information. CCA NC hopes to see you there!

Charlotte - Oct. 1

Extravaganza Depot - North Tryon St.

Phil Dauksys - 704-547-4360

Beaufort - Nov. 7

Annual Inside Out Fishing Tournament

Todd Shamel - 919-781-3474

Triad - Nov. 12

High Point Country Club

Phil Burris - 336-905-1094

CCA NC planning events to attract more women participants

By Callie Freeman
CCA NC Contributor

You may have noticed on your last trip to your preferred outfitter, an inordinate amount of pink items strewn throughout the store. Pink rods, pink reels, pink waders, pink gear bags, and even pink tackle.

You also may have haplessly wandered into an entire section of the store dedicated to the angler of female persuasion and wondered aloud, "Just what the heck is going on?" While you may have been caught unaware, you can rest assured that the fishing industry has been swift to take note that the popularity of fishing among women is on the rise.

According to the latest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Survey conducted in 2011, 8.9 million women make up more than a quarter of all anglers, and that number is steadily growing. These women anglers are also a vital source to the economy, spending an estimated \$11 billion per year on fishing related items.

Of significance, in North Carolina the number of female anglers is even higher than the national average with women representing 38 percent of all anglers statewide. These women anglers in turn contribute a large slice of the \$1.5 billion spent on fishing tackle, clothing or trips each year in the Old North State.

Women anglers are also dedicated conservationists and often prove to be more passionate advocates than their male counterparts. Women are no strangers to marine conservation, in fact you would be hard pressed to find two individuals that have contributed more to marine resource conservation than Silvia Earle and Rachel Carson.

Recognizing the rising trend in female anglers and appreciating their drive for advocacy, CCA North Carolina is launching a new Women's Initiative with the first official event set to kick off early in 2016. Seafood and wine pairing dinners, ladies-only fishing clinics, educational seminars, in addition to networking events are just a few of the activities that this initiative will employ. Our goal in 2016 will be to connect with the many lady anglers throughout the state, share with them our passion for coastal stewardship and ultimately grow our female membership.

CCA NC is not the first chapter to recognize the good sense in recruiting women as members and volunteers. CCA Mississippi debuted the Southern Belle Shootout in 2014 while the Babes On the Bay, hosted by the Aransas Bay Chapter of CCA, attracted nearly 1,300 ladies of all ages this past May. The increasing number of tournaments limited to women anglers has become a great way to introduce ladies to CCA.