



To: NC MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
From: ANDREW BERRY
Re: PROPOSAL TO REDEFINE A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN
Date: February 8, 2018

- When it comes down to it, anyone who makes dollars from the resources in NC waters is a Commercial fisherman because Commercial really does mean Money.
- Recreational really means For Fun. A family that takes out their own boat or stands on a dock to catch fish is truly Recreational; they're having fun enjoying the resource.
- Anyone who takes or uses the resource for income or money is Commercial, and that includes a lot of people.
- Most Charter Boats already have Commercial Licenses.
- But, how about all of the inshore Charter Businesses that also take the resource for income, a Commercial use of the resource?
- How about every Tackle shop that has a Dealer's License to buy bait, a Commercial use of the resource?
- How about every restaurant that has a Dealer's License to purchase seafood, a Commercial use of the resource.
- How about every Fishing Tournament in the state, a use of the resource for money? When the CCA has fishing tournaments to raise funds, that's Commercial. Aren't they using fish for money? Absolutely!
- When it comes down to it, there are very few fishermen in the state that aren't Commercial.
- So, while the MFC considers the Proposal to Redefine a Commercial Fishermen to limit Commercial fishing, the state is bringing in revenues, making money (Therefore, Commercial) with its Charter/Headboats, CFRL Licenses, and Dealers' Licenses to Buy and Sell fish that are used by tackle shops and restaurants.
- Another thing, how can any member of the MFC determine what is or isn't Commercial if he doesn't even have a Commercial Fishing License? He wouldn't know or maybe not even thought about what a True Commercial fisherman is. He has no right or business to even speak about Commercial fishing, especially if he sits in a Recreational Seat. He should stick to his Seat Position.

Thank You

Andrew Berry
Vice-President, NCWU