

Press Release

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Andrew Berry Joins NCWU Board

Manteo, NC -- Britt Shackelford, President of the North Carolina Watermen United Board of Directors, announced the addition of Andrew Berry of Manteo as a new member of the Board. Mr. Berry, a lifelong resident of the Outer Banks, started fishing at the age of 12 and currently works as a gill netter in season and a duck hunting guide in the winter.

Mr. Berry will be able to provide the Board of NCWU with a unique perspective on this aspect of commercial fishing and an industry segment that faces extensive regulations and restrictions. With over 30 years experience as a gill netter, he's keenly aware of some of the problems inherent in by-catch considerations.

Berry has fished in the Pamlico, Croatan and Roanoke Sounds for just about every type of fish including American shad fish in the winter, blue fish, trout and spot in the spring, flounder and mullet in late spring through summer and into the late fall months.

He started working on the water while still at Manteo Middle School on his Dad, Jimmy's boat. He's married to Joanne Berry and has three children.

NCWU, which originally came together in 2005 as a group of commercial, charter/headboat, and recreational anglers, has worked hard to promote the North Carolina fishing industry and protect those who work on the water along with recreational fishermen who enjoy being able to fish. Of equal importance, is the consumer, who may not necessarily fish, but who wants the highest quality protein source in the world - North Carolina fresh seafood. This organization was originally responsible for developing the idea of Outer Banks Catch as a means of educating the consumer of the benefits of fresh, local NC seafood; and has brought the importance of the NC fishing industry to the attention of local, state and federally elected officials.

Last year (2013) in North Carolina, fishermen harvested 50 million pounds of fish and shellfish from North Carolina waters (a 12 percent decrease from 2012) with a value of \$79 million (up 9% from 2012) to the economy. Membership in the

organization goes to help make sure that possible threats to the industry are taken seriously and that fishermen are kept aware of all the laws that effect fishermen and their ability to make a living on the water. And to deliver as the seasons permit, good, local seafood fresh from the sounds and ocean that define the east coast of our state.

The NCWU Board of Directors is headed by Britt Shackelford, a local fisherman. For more information on the organization, visit www.ncwu.net or <https://www.facebook.com/NCWatermenUnited>.