



NC General Assembly
House of Representatives
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

June 4, 2018

Dear Representative Speciale,

The Board of Directors of the North Carolina Watermen United (NCWU) would like to thank you for being the Primary Sponsor for HB 1049 that addresses our concerns about the Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC). We would like to see the changes that the bill addresses, including the Moratorium in Section 4.(a).

Further, at this time of reform, we would also like to request, once again, that the Charter/Headboat Sector of our state - which has been under-represented on the MFC by persons holding Recreational Seats - be addressed at this time. We believe that North Carolina has three Sectors: Commercial Harvestors, Charter/Headboat Operators - both that earn a living on the water - and Recreational fishermen who fish for "fun."

We suggested in a letter to the Governor in April 2018 that the Charter/Headboat Sector be represented with designated, dedicated seats on the MFC. Requirements would include that the seats be filled with individuals who "sell" fishing trips for clients and also actively hold licenses to Commercial fish to supplement their income - a "Blended" Charter/Headboat Seat, that would not upset the balance between Commercial and Recreational issues because the persons holding these Blended Charter/Headboat Seats participate in both fisheries. A copy of our letter is attached to this email.

This could be accomplished by changes to SECTION 3.2 of HB 1049:

An equitable number of persons actively engaged in the sports fishing industry as demonstrated by deriving at least fifty percent (50%) of annual earned income from selling goods or services in this State and actively Commercial fishing in the off-season for supplemental income, demonstrated by holding Commercial Licenses and Trip-Tickets.

We appreciate your attention to this matter - to right an injustice to our Charter/Headboat operators.

Yours tru

Perry Wood Beasley

Perry Wood Beasley
President, NCWU
252-706-0184
penny@mccown-mccown.com

Andrew Berry
Capt Sonny Davis
Ernie Doshier
Ernie Foster
Tom Harper
Rom Whitaker

Board of Directors

Billy Maxwell
Greg Mayer
Jamie Reibel
Britt Shackelford
Duke Spencer

PWB: mm
cc: John Nicholson, DEQ Chief Deputy Secretary
Katie Hendrickson, Governor's Boards Office
Stephen Murphey, NCDMF Director

