



Governor Roy Cooper  
Office of the Governor  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

April 25, 2018

Dear Governor Cooper,

The North Carolina Watermen United (NCWU) requests that some of the seats on the Marine Fisheries (MFC) be filled by Charter/Headboat operators. These men and women depend on Recreational fishermen to book charters on their vessels that provide a significant portion of the operators' incomes. They also depend on Commercial fishing to round out their income during their industry's off-season.

Designated seats for Charter/Headboat operators would represent these blended occupations and offer a unique opportunity to bring balance to the MFC through their dependence on having a healthy resource that satisfies the needs and wants of both Recreational fishermen and Commercial Harvesters.

The North Carolina Watermen United (NCWU) is an organization formed in 2005 that represents Commercial Harvesters and Charter/Headboat owner-operators; both of whom make a living "on the water," and Recreational fishermen, who fish for "fun" and dinner. The MFC's statute-designated membership has not adequately represented the wide expanse of interests in discussions and rule-making pertinent to the three Sectors, especially the Charter/Headboat Industry that brings in almost \$700 MILLION per year, according to an Economic Impact Study completed in 2009. (We are waiting for an approval by NC Sea Grant to update the statistics which will probably show an even-larger amount of money brought into the state.)

Attached to this letter are the NCWU RESOLUTIONS from 2009 and an updated version from 2018 with an amended clause, asking that MFC have dedicated seats for the Charter/Headboat Industry which can be accomplished by designating the two current At-Large seats for Charter/Headboat operators who are also active commercial fishermen who can be identified by verifying trip tickets. Or, if the re-organized MFC does not include At-Large seats, then we are asking you to work with the NCGA to amend the statute governing MFC to provide an equitable number of seats for Charter/Headboat (Blended), Commercial and Recreational Sectors.

Since 2009, some of the Recreational seats on the MFC, many of them held by “private” Recreational fishermen or part-time Charter/Headboat operators, have given lip service to representing Charter/Headboats, but they cannot possibly speak, nor represent the operators who work full-time to eke out a living by running fishing trips for both local and out-of-state clients. These Charter/Headboat fishermen face a myriad of problems that cannot be adequately understood nor discussed by a private or part-time fisherman.

And so, we are asking you to examine the current seats of the MFC and in so doing also take steps to ensure that the MFC have dedicated seats for the Charter/Headboat Sector, and that they are actually filled by full-time Charter/Headboat operators who hold commercial licenses and are also active in commercial fishing to supplement their incomes.

We have also attached a Short List of very qualified candidates who are willing and able to perform the duties of the MFC while representing the Charter/Headboat Industry. All of the candidates have Charter/Headboat and Commercial licenses.

As you can see by NCWU’s past proposals, we stand behind our Charter/Headboat personnel and would sincerely appreciate your attention to providing them with adequate representation on the MFC. Thank you for your interest in fishery issues.

Yours truly,

Perry W Beasley

Perry Wood Beasley  
President, NCWU  
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252-706-0184

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Glenn Skinner, NCFE Executive Director

NCWU  
Box 536, Hatteras, NC 27943  
www.NCWU.net

**Candidates for MFC Charter/Headboat/Commercial (Blended) Seats**

## Leslie (Capt Sonny) Davis

- PO Box 3013, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512  
[info@captstacy.com](mailto:info@captstacy.com)  
c 252-726-0784
- Has worked in the fishing industry since 1953
- Built his first Headboat and named it *Miss Stacy* after his father, Capt Stacy Davis.
- Built the Capt Stacy Fishing Center in Atlantic Beach in the early 1960s and still operates it with his family
- Has served on the SAFMC Advisory Panel for Snapper/Grouper, the Board of Directors for the Carteret County Marine Fisheries Advisory Board, the Board of Directors for the Council for Sustainable Fishing and the Board of Directors for NCWU

## Maurice Davis

- 139 Oak Trail; Newport, NC 28750  
[glassfish61@gmail.com](mailto:glassfish61@gmail.com)  
c 252-503-6257
- Has run fishing trips for clients on the Headboat, *Capt Stacy IV*, from the family marina in Atlantic Beach for 38 years
- Commercial fishes for bluefin tuna and in the snapper/grouper complex.

## Brian Patteson

- PO Box 772, Hatteras, NC 27943  
[brian@patteson.com](mailto:brian@patteson.com)  
c 252-216-9163
- Runs fishing charters for clients on the Charter Boat, *Stormy Petrel II*, from Hatteras Landing.
- Runs over 40 pelagic birding trips every year
- Commercial fishes in the bluefin and king mackerel fisheries

## Jamie Reibel

- 305 Sir Walter Raleigh Street, Manteo, NC 27954  
[phideaux@embarqmail.com](mailto:phideaux@embarqmail.com)  
c 252-473-8051
- Runs fishing charters on the Charter Boat *PHIDEAUX* out of OBX Marina in Wanchese

- Commercial fishes for tuna
- Has served on the NC Travel and Tourism Board, the Working Watermen's Advisory Committee for the Dare County Board of Commissioners, the NCDMF Joint Enforcement Authority Committee and the NCWU Board of Directors.

### **Britton Shackelford**

- PO Box 267, Wanchese, NC 27981  
[brittonshack@gmail.com](mailto:brittonshack@gmail.com)  
c 252-473-8078
- Runs fishing charters for clients on the Charter Boat, *Doghouse* from Wanchese
- Commercial fishes for bluefin tuna and is one of the stars in National Geographic Channel's *Wicked Tuna: OBX*
- Has served on the Board of Directors and as President of NCWU

### **Duke Spencer**

- 126 Brakewood Drive, Manteo, NC 27954  
[duke@captainduke.com](mailto:duke@captainduke.com)  
c 252-473-8460
- Runs in-shore fishing trips on the Charter Boat, *Capt'n Duke*, from Oregon Inlet Fishing Center
- Has served on the Albemarle Striped Bass Committee, the NCDMF Flounder Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors for NCWU

## **RESOLUTION**

**REQUESTING FAIR AND REASONABLE REPRESENTATION ON REGULATORY  
BOARDS BY THE STATE'S CHARTER/HEADBOAT INDUSTRY**

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has defined the Charter/Headboat Industry as a separate entity in the new Saltwater Fishing License, and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has established a fee structure for Charter/Headboats, the Charter/Headboats are being taxed without representation, and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina requires a decal to be displayed on each Charter/Headboat, and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina requires each Charter/Headboat to list every operator of a For-Hire Vessel, and

WHEREAS, the Charter/Headboat Industry is 650 Million-dollar Industry that draws visitors to North Carolina from across the nation and world, and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has, for years, required reporting data and regulated the landing of fish caught on its Charter/Headboat Fishing- both within and outside of State waters,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Watermen United requests the State of North Carolina in the interest of fair representation, provide an equitable number of seats on the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission designated specifically for representatives of the Charter/Headboat Industry and that the State of North Carolina provide seats on the Joint Legislative Committee on Seafood and Aquaculture specifically designated for representatives of the Charter/Headboat Industry.

Adopted November 11, 2009

**Britton Shackelford**

Britton Shackelford, President NCWU



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Adopted February 21, 2018 by unanimous vote of the NCWU Board of Directors

Perry W Beasley February 21, 2018

Perry Wood Beasley  
President, NCWU