



## Newsletter

December 2018

### President's Letter

Dear NCWU Members,

I would like to say "Thank You" to everyone.

- To the NCWU Board of Directors for all of their help when I stepped in as President of the organization in January 2018 after Britt announced his resignation last December - for attending many meetings this year to make complex decisions, for answering their phones and offering advice and opinions - after fishing all day and then getting up early the next morning to go back fishing. To Andrew and Greg, the new Vice-Presidents, for the endless hours we spent making plans for the future of NCWU. My thanks to Melba, our secretary, for sending letters and emails to the Membership, our Commissioners and our Legislators to keep everyone informed about all fishery issues. And to Mary Ellon, our Membership Director for increasing our Membership and for updating our merchandise.
- A special thanks to our past Members who rejoined during this year's Membership Drive and to those new Members who are trusting us to look after their fisheries.
- To the many fishermen who called with ideas about the "hot issues," for example, the Shellfish Aquaculture Bill, the Charter-Headboat issue and the Right to Hunt and Fish Amendment. To the many fishermen and members who traveled "Down East" to help our friends devastated by Hurricane Florence with supplies, flood clean-up and the start of the re-building projects.

I said when I took the position, "I will travel to meetings and talk to people." NCWU prides itself on "Telling the Truth" about the issues in all of its fisheries, and I will tell the truth to anyone who listens. Thanks to our elected Commissioners on our coastal Counties' Boards and to the Legislators in the NCGA. They have often pledged their support to us in their campaigns, and I will watch and remind them of their promises when they are discussing the fisheries.

I want to wish everyone a blessed Christmas Season and a happy prosperous New Year. I am looking forward, as the NCWU President, to serving the needs of all of our fishermen in a year with only a few bumps in the road and only a few rough waves.

Fighting for your Freedom to Fish,

**Perry Wood**

Perry Wood Beasley  
President, NCWU  
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**Retrospect of our NCWU Year**  
by  
Melba Milak, Executive Secretary



2018 was an exciting year of changes and development for NCWU -

Installed a new President, Perry Wood Beasley, and two new Vice-Presidents, Andrew Berry and Greg Mayer in a Board Meeting in January

Attended an SAFMC Meeting in Hatteras Village on Electronic Logbooks for For-Hire Charter Boats in January

Opposed the NC Marine Fisheries Commission Proposal, *Re-Definition of a Commercial Fisherman* with letters and emails to the Membership and NCGA Legislators and by Public Comments at the MFC Meeting in Wrightsville Beach in February.



Added a Breaking News Post on the homepage of the NCWU website in February

Approved an Insurance Plan covering Health Care for our Members, including Short Term Medical, Metal Gap Plans, Care Access Plans, Critical Illness, Dental and Legal Protection in March



Asked for more Bluefin Quota in a letter sent to Membership, US Senators Burr and Tillis and Congressman Jones, NCGA Legislators and presented the letter at the HMS Meeting in March

Re-appointed Ernie Doshier and Andrew Berry to the NC Commercial Resource Funding Committee in March



Asked for "fair and equitable" representation for Charter/Headboat Seats on the NC MFC and sent applications of six of our Members as Candidates for the Seats in April

Hired Mary Ellon Ballance as the NCWU Membership Director in April

Chaired the annual Legislative Seafood Dinner for Legislators in Raleigh in May



Attended Lobby Day to talk with NCGA Legislators in Raleigh in May



Opposed the NCGA HB 361, *Shellfish Aquaculture Bill* with letters and emails to Membership and NCGA Legislators in June

Discussed Duck Blinds and possible problems with permitting if HB 361 passes with the Dare County Commissioners in June

Held a Fund-Raiser for the Premiere of National Geographic's 2018 *Wicked Tuna OBX, An Evening with the Captains* with Capt Charlie Griffin, Capt Greg Mayer and Capt Britt Shackelford, NCWU Members, in June

Supported the NC Division of Marine Fisheries and the Marine Fisheries Commission decision to delay action on the Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan in August

Opposed the SAFMC Snapper Grouper Amendment 47 modifications that would limit entry into the Federal for-Hire Charter/Headboat Snapper Grouper fishery in August

Set up a booth at the Pirate's Cove Tournament in August

Sent Governor Cooper a list of recommended candidates for the two Commercial Seats on the MFC after the resignations of Corbett and Willis in September



Accompanied several Members "Down East" after Hurricane Florence to help with supplies, flood clean-up and re-building projects in September

Opposed the NCGA's Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish since it does not protect Commercial or Charter/Headboat fishing with letters to Membership, NCGA Legislators, and several print and on-line papers and magazines in October



Set up a booth at the OBX Seafood Festival in October

Made Public Comments at the Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting in Kitty Hawk in November

Approved Jamie Reibel to be reseated on the re-organized Working Watermen Commission in November

Opposed the SAFMC's proposal to change bag limits of blue-line tile and dolphin by Public Comments in person and by email in December




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*Thank You for all of your Support*

*While We Work*

*To Protect Your Freedom to Fish!*

*NCNW would like to wish all of our  
Members and their Families*

*A Very Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year*

