

The Angry Fisherman.



THE ANGRY FISHERMAN

Press Release, April 13, 2009

THE ANGRY FISHERMAN and its supporters are in total support of H918, the Coastal Game Fish Act Bill which is currently in the NC House of Representatives for consideration. This bill will give "Game Fish" protection to the Spotted Sea Trout and the Red Drum, and is long overdue here in North Carolina! We also support the Primary Sponsors of this bill, Representative Carolyn Justice, Pender and New Hanover Counties, and Representative Paul Luebke, Durham County.

Recent attacks on the character of Rep. Justice by Sean McKeon, paid lobbyist and spokesman for the commercial fishing industry and the NCFA, are slanderous and should be retracted immediately! Only 11,063 pounds of Speckled Trout were reported sold in New Hanover and Pender Counties combined in 2008, clearly pointing out the scathing, false statement from McKeon that **"She's a coastal rep acting to destroy many of her own constituents' livelihoods"**.

Quite the contrary, she is representing her constituents with the greatest of courage in her efforts to guarantee the future of these two fish for the greater good of New Hanover County and Pender County residents. The economic impacts of these 2 fish as "Sport Fish" to the coastal communities outweigh the values they bring to a fish market by millions of dollars!

NOAA studies recently released showed that the NC saltwater recreational angler spent \$2.5 Billion with NC businesses in 2006, generated over \$780 Million in salaries and wages to NC workers, and helped support over 23,700 jobs here in NC. Our question to Mr. McKeon is this, how much money did the commercial fishing industry put into the NC economy in 2006? How much salaries and wages were created by the commercial fishing industry in 2006, and how many jobs did the industry you are paid to represent provide for NC workers?

Mr. McKeon is paid to say what he says. Who knows what he really believes? His efforts are well funded by the NCFA. His income is paid directly from the total sales of seafood by the members of the NCFA. The more they harvest and sell, the more he makes! When all the fish are gone, Mr. McKeon will have to find another industry to spew his lies for!

We believe it is "high time" that someone stood up to the commercially stacked Marine Fisheries Commission and a select few politicians that feed at the commercial fishing trough. The Angry Fisherman is 20,000 active and supportive members. There are NO paid officials nor are any members doing this for any reason other than to ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy this incredible resource. If change does not happen, then this State faces the extinction of numerous animals and fish simply for the benefit of a few.

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John M. Hislop