North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
At-Sea Observer Program Funding Public Hearing
Dare County Government Building, Room 186
954 Marshall C. Collins Drive, Manteo
October 16, 2013 at 6:00p.m.

AGENDA

- Welcome – Chris Batsavage
- Presentation – Chris Batsavage
- Public Comment
- Adjourn

General Assembly of North Carolina Session 2013
Senate Bill 402
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
SECTION 14.8.(x) *The Division of Marine Fisheries of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall seek the involvement of the commercial fishing industry in North Carolina in the Division's development of a plan to determine a source of funding necessary to support the Marine Fisheries At-Sea Observer Program that is in addition to the fee increases under this section. As part of this effort, the Division of Marine Fisheries shall conduct at least three public hearings in different coastal county locations to seek the input of, and receive comments of potential additional recurring funding sources from, the individuals involved in the commercial fishing industry. The Division shall receive written comments at the public hearings and take minutes of the public hearings. The minutes shall be made available to the public on the Department's Internet Web site.*
SECTION 14.8.(y) *Following the public hearings under subsection (x) of this section and the Division's consideration of written and oral comments resulting from the public hearings, the Division of Marine Fisheries shall submit its plan for an additional recurring funding source to support the Marine Fisheries At-Sea Observer Program to the Marine Fisheries Commission. The Marine Fisheries Commission shall vote on whether it endorses the plan.*
SECTION 14.8.(z) *No later than March 1, 2014, the Marine Fisheries Commission shall submit a report to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Natural and Economic Resources, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources, and the Fiscal Research Division. This report shall include the results of the Commission's vote under subsection (y) of this section and its findings and recommendations for an additional source of funding necessary to support the Marine Fisheries At-Sea Observer Program in the event the Commission votes against endorsing the plan.*
SECTION 14.8.(aa) *The Division of Marine Fisheries shall use the proceeds it receives as a result of the fee increases under this section to provide support for the 2014-2015 fiscal year for the Marine Fisheries At-Sea Observer Program. In addition, the Division of Marine Fisheries shall provide available funds for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide any additional support that is needed to continue the Marine Fisheries At-Sea Observer Program.*
SECTION 14.8.(ab) *This section becomes effective August 1, 2013.*