

TOWN BOARD BACKS FISHERMEN

State May Lift Gill Net Rules At Holden

BY DOUG RUTTER

New state rules restricting the use of gill nets along the Brunswick County coast may soon be lifted at Holden Beach, where town officials have sided with local fishermen.

The rules, which took effect one month ago, require Brunswick County fishermen who set gill nets from the beach to remove all equipment such as ropes, anchors and buoys when nets are not in use.

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries prohibits fishermen from setting gill nets from local beaches between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Nets may be set from the strand after Labor Day but must be attended at all times.

At their meeting last Wednesday, Holden Beach Commissioners voted 4-0 to reject a resolution endorsing the new state regulations after hearing from five local net fishermen.

The anglers, who have worked at Holden Beach for many years, said they objected to having to remove their fishing gear from the strand each day.

"It'll take us half a day to put out what we got. It'll take us half a day to get it up," fisherman Clyde Stout said. "We can't be out there 24 hours a day with it."

Town officials agreed. "I think it's very ill-conceived and

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—Commissioner David Sandifer

ill-prepared," Commissioner Jim Fournier said of the rules set by N.C. Fisheries Director Bill Hogarth following a public meeting at Long Beach.

The rules took effect Aug. 2 in all of Brunswick County. However, Mayor Wally Ausley said Hogarth told him the state would lift the regulations at Holden Beach if commissioners didn't give their stamp of approval.

Hogarth did not return phone calls to his office last Friday or Monday. On Tuesday morning, a division spokesman said most employees did not report to work with Hurricane Emily threatening Morehead City.

At last week's town meeting, R.P. Robinson said he and other local fishermen don't want to use gill nets

in the summer but would like to use them after Labor Day without having to remove their gear every day.

Robinson said it takes about half a day to set up the anchors and buoys, and the fishermen don't want to have to do it every day.

Stout said gill nets have caused problems with beachgoers and sport fishermen at Long Beach, but not at Holden Beach.

"The fisherman is part of the problem, but thank goodness we don't have that problem on this beach and I don't think we will have it," he said. "If we can leave it like it's been and everybody cooperate I think everything will be fine."

Mayor Ausley said some people leave their gear out for several days without checking on it. Eventually,

the ropes become a hazard if they stick out above the strand.

However, Acie Robinson said the commercial fishermen don't leave their ropes and anchors where they can cause harm. "Our lines are tied down so nobody can get hurt. We're every day watching ours."

Ausley said Hogarth warned him that rejecting the Marine Fisheries regulations could encourage net fishermen who normally work elsewhere to start setting their nets off Holden Beach.

"I'm very concerned about fishermen coming from other islands to Holden Beach, but I'm more concerned about these fishermen who were here tonight and have been fishing for 50 years," Commissioner David Sandifer said.

"We don't want to inherit all the fishermen on the North Carolina coast, but we want to protect ours," he added.

In addition to rejecting the state regulations, commissioners said last week they plan to revise an existing town ordinance that only allows net fishing from the beach between Labor Day and Jan. 1.

R.P. Robinson said local fishermen would like to work through Feb. 1.

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Leland District Gets \$490,640 For Water Lines

The Leland Sanitary District has been awarded \$490,640 in state revolving loan funds to construct 35,000 linear feet of water line extensions.

The announcement was made last week by Gov. James B. Hunt.

Loan and grant funds are made available through the N.C. Revolving Loan and Grant Act of 1987. The act provides low-interest loans and high unit-cost grants for funding water supply projects sponsored by local units of government.

Since 1987, \$6.87 million in loans and \$935,474 in grants have been awarded to 16 local units of government. All awards have been for providing adequate supplies of safe drinking water and a basis for growth.

Red Cross Offers Disaster Classes For Volunteers

The American Red Cross, Cape Fear Chapter, is offering classes for disaster volunteers.

A disaster committee meeting will be held Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Introduction to Disaster Services will take place Sept. 15 from 6:30-9 p.m.

Mass Care 1 is scheduled for Sept. 16, 6:30-9 p.m.

A second disaster committee meeting will be held Sept. 29 at 6:30 p.m.

All classes and meetings will be held at the American Red Cross building, 1102 S. 16th St., Wilmington.

For more information, call Bill Lawhon or Mary Phelan at 762-2683.

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QUIZ:

Dependents				
One	Two	Three	Four	Five or More
2	2	2	1	1

Residence				
With Parents	Rent	Rent	Own	Own
1	2	3	4	5

Years at Present Address				
Under 2 yrs	2-4 yrs	5-8 yrs	9-14 yrs	15 yrs or more
1	2	3	4	5

Gross Monthly Income				
\$1,000 - 1,500	\$1,501 - 2,000	\$2,001 - 2,500	\$2,501 - 3,500	Over \$3,500
3	4	5	6	7

Years With Present Employer				
Under 2 yrs	2-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	Over 10 yrs
1	3	4	5	6

Years With Previous Employer				
Under 1 yr	1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	Over 10 yrs
0	1	2	4	5

Monthly Income Remaining (After monthly obligations)				
Less than 10%	10% to 24%	25% to 32%	33% to 49%	Over 50%
1	2	3	4	5

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