



Cape Fear Flyfishers Meeting Minutes—July 15th, 2026

<https://capefearff.com>

President Al Roy called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM at the Homer Wright Event Center. Approximately 15 members attended the meeting.

NEW MEMBERS/VISITORS

- Three new members were present. Morgan Sullivan {Wilmington, beginner}, Al Raynor {Ogden, 30 yrs.}, Dan Pitt {Leland, experienced}.

FLY RAFFLE

- A Fly raffle was not held

FISHING REPORTS

- The Casting Clinic led by Jim White was held from 5 to 6 pm prior to the meeting
- Dave Risberg reported that he angled a 32" Red, the largest he has caught locally. Several fish tales followed.

TREASURERS REPORT

- Treasurer Paul Askew was not able to attend the meeting.

UPCOMING EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Openings are still available for the Brazil trip.

SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

Stuart Creighton, Eastern Regional Director, CCA (Coastal Conservation Association) NC www.ccanc.org discussed CCA's work to improve both habitat and angler access in NC. He addressed the work done on the Oyster Mile in the New River near Jacksonville where CCA was a critical partner in establishing this oyster sanctuary. In the time it has been in existence, the reef has done exactly what was hoped: improved water quality and filled up with oysters that are also serving as great habitat for baitfish and gamefish in the area. He also presented and discussed the artificial reef work done in the Pamlico River as well as the new pier constructed in New Bern (to improve angler access). That then led into a discussion of CCA's Living Reef Action Campaign (LRAC). The LRAC focuses on engaging students through in-class and hands-on STEM programs that encourage environmental stewardship. To support this program CCA will bring a trailer with all the supplies needed to build reef structures to schools, clubs, camps, or businesses that want to get hands on with constructing the very pieces that will be used to enhance habitat along the coast of NC. He also presented an overview of the recently held LRAC Build Day that was completed in Jacksonville, NC.

The second part of his presentation discussed the condition of many of our key fisheries in Eastern NC. Many (herring, sturgeon, southern flounder, striped bass, blue crab, striped mullet) are overfished, He explained that too many species are currently being removed with stocks depressed because of long term removals. He also discussed the overfishing that is occurring on speckled trout, again with stocks depressed because of long term removals. Following that, he mentioned some specific recent rule changes that were affecting sheepshead and likely to soon affect black drum. In particular, he noted the upcoming southern flounder amendment 5 where some critical changes COULD be enacted including removal of large mesh gill nets from the fishery and species specific management that should lead to a separate ocean flounder season during the summer.

He concluded with a brief summary of the Coastal Conservation Association lawsuit which seeks to address the following issue: North Carolina remains the last state on the East and Gulf Coasts permitting large-scale estuarine shrimp trawling and unattended gill nets in waters designated as juvenile fish nurseries. For every pound of shrimp harvested by trawl, studies show more than four pounds of these valuable juvenile finfish are killed as bycatch. The trial has concluded and the judge's ruling appears imminent.

Secretary's Note.

A notice of the upcoming CCA Banquet is attached for those members who wish to attend to support this organization.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. Many members continued the discussion at Oak Island Pub

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Beattie

2026 CCA NC Cape Fear Chapter Banquet



Thursday, August 6, 2026
The Terraces on Sir Tyler

1826 Sir Tyler Dr., Wilmington, NC 28405

Scan here for tickets!

Ticket Prices:

Adult \$90 Couples \$150

4-Top Corporate Table \$450

8-Top Corporate Table \$900



<https://ccanc.org/product/2026-cape-fear-chapter-banquet/>

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