



The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce
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Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Resolution Opposing Game Fish Bill

WHEREAS, all fisheries of the United States are a public trust resource belonging to everyone; and

WHEREAS, a vast portion of the public relies on the commercial fishing industry to harvest their share of this resource for them; and

WHEREAS, declaring game fish status for Red Drum, Striped Bass and Speckled Sea Trout would deprive most of the public access to a resource which they own; and

WHEREAS, allowing only a specific user group to gain the benefits of eating this important, healthy protein is unfair, unjust and unwarranted; and

WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry is an important component of the coastal and the state's economic base which provides many direct and indirect jobs, taxes and other benefits; and

WHEREAS, there is no scientific basis for placing additional restrictions on the commercial harvest of these species; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary lures to entice visitors to the coast is the availability of fresh locally-caught seafood at the docks, fish markets and restaurants; and

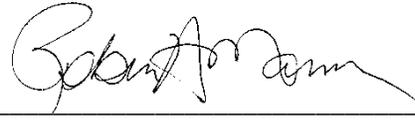
WHEREAS, the taxes from tourism are a significant portion of the budgets of local towns, counties and the state; and

WHEREAS, much of North Carolina's commercial fishing industry is still trying to recover from Hurricane Irene, the frequent closing of Oregon Inlet and unfair competition of imported seafood; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing is the state's first industry and its more than 400-year-old existence is part of the state's and nation's cultural heritage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of its more than 1,000 members, requests that the North Carolina General Assembly oppose "Game Fish Status" for Red Drum, Striped Bass, Speckled Sea Trout and other fish species and ensure that access of this public trust resource continues to be available to all.

Adopted this 25th day of January, 2012.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin A. Mann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robin A. Mann, Chair
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors