



COUNTY OF BEAUFORT

RESOLUTION 2025-06-23-001

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE TRAWLING BAN AMENDMENT TO HB 442

WHEREAS, the shrimp trawling industry is a vital economic driver for coastal counties, supporting commercial fishing families, seafood processors, and related businesses; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 442 was amended by the Senate to ban shrimp trawling in all inside coastal waters and within one-half mile of the shoreline, which would devastate North Carolina's shrimp industry and threaten the livelihoods of local fishermen; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina shrimp fishery is already one of the most heavily regulated in the nation, with measures in place to ensure sustainable harvests, including bycatch reduction devices, turtle excluder devices, and seasonal closures; and

WHEREAS, the sudden implementation of a sweeping trawl ban would harm coastal economies, increase reliance on imported seafood, and disregard the years of science-based management by the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission; and

WHEREAS, this amendment was introduced without sufficient stakeholder input, scientific review, or economic impact analysis, bypassing proper legislative deliberation, and threatens a deeply historic way of life and sustenance for coastal families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Beaufort County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes the trawl ban amendment to House Bill 442 and urges the North Carolina General Assembly to reject this harmful proposal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Beaufort County Board of Commissioners calls on all members of the General Assembly to engage with fishermen, scientists, and coastal leaders before advancing any measure that would cripple a historic and sustainable fishery;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Josh Stein, Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger, House Speaker Destin Hall, the members of the North Carolina General Assembly, and all Beaufort County legislative delegates.

Adopted this the 23rd day of June 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frankie Waters", written over a horizontal line.

Frankie Waters, Chairman
Beaufort County Board of Commissioners

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Mosher", written over a horizontal line.

Kathleen Mosher
Clerk to the Board