



P.O. Box 2175 ~ Beaufort, NC 28516 ~ www.carteretcatch.org

RESOLUTION

OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 983 – “FISHERIES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT”

Whereas, North Carolina is recognized for its many fisheries and the commercial and recreational fishermen who harvest them; and

Whereas, red drum, spotted sea trout and striped bass are fish caught in the coastal waters of North Carolina and are consumed by North Carolina citizens and tourists; and

Whereas, fish in North Carolina are a public trust resource and belong to all citizens of the state; and

Whereas, North Carolina has a renowned fisheries management system under the Fisheries Reform Act where fisheries management plans, produced by scientists, reviewed by numerous advisory committees and reviewed by legislative committees are used to ensure sustainable fisheries resources in North Carolina; and

Whereas, red drum are not overfished and striped bass in Albemarle Sound are not overfished and their populations are healthy, and measures have been implemented to stop overfishing of spotted sea trout and striped bass in other rivers ; and

Whereas, red drum, spotted sea trout, and striped bass currently have numerous regulations put in place by the state of North Carolina whose goal is to provide sustainable populations of these fish; and

Whereas, designating red drum, spotted sea trout, and striped bass gamefish will do nothing to enhance the population status of these species as recreational fishermen catch the majority of these species; and

Whereas, red drum, spotted sea trout and striped bass are also a part of a variety of species caught by North Carolina’s commercial fishermen and are important commodities in retail and wholesale seafood markets; and

Whereas, designating these species as gamefish will deprive consumers who are unable to engage in recreational fishing access to locally-harvested, sustainable seafood; and

Whereas, designating these species as gamefish will adversely affect not only North Carolina businessmen who commercially fish and are small, family-operated businesses, but also coastal and inland restaurants that serve local seafood to consumers, businesses that sell gear and supplies to fishermen, retail businesses that sell local fish to consumers, and other businesses associated with our state’s commercial fishing industry which provide many jobs for North Carolina; and

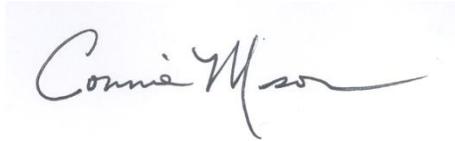
Whereas, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, the agency charged with the stewardship of the marine and estuarine resources for the State of North Carolina, has opposed gamefish designation for these three species; and

Whereas, allocating 100% of a public resource to a specific user group that comprises less than 3% of North Carolina’s population is unbalanced and hence unfair; and

Whereas, designating these species as gamefish when the science, public review, and legislative review of the fisheries management plans written to ensure sustainability of red drum, spotted sea trout and striped bass did not recommend gamefish status would violate the process established by the General Assembly to protect the resource for the benefit of all citizens of our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carteret Catch Board of Directors oppose the portion of HR 983 that designates spotted sea trout, red drum and striped bass as gamefish in North Carolina.

ADOPTED, this the 2nd day of May 2013.



Connie Mason, President



Shirley Powell, Secretary