

April 12, 2001

**H 1121. COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE. TO ESTABLISH A COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE.** Enacts new Art. 14B, GS Ch. 113, to establish coastal recreational fishing licenses (CRFL). Enacts GS 113-174.1 to require license for recreational fishing in coastal waters. Makes it unlawful to sell fish caught pursuant to this license, limits dual licensing for licensees from other states, and provides for replacement licenses. The license fees are \$15.00 for a standard license valid for one year; \$5.00 for a ten day CRFL; and \$100 to \$250 for a lifetime CRFL (depending on age of licensee). Persons who hold either a Standard Commercial Fishing License or Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License are exempted from license requirement, as are those whose age is under 16 or is 65 or older. Provides license fee exemptions for handicapped and disabled persons, disabled veterans, and blind persons. Provides for annual blanket CRFLs for operators of fishing boats and piers based on the length of the boat or pier. Provides for an annual Recreational Commercial Gear License (RCGL), the fee for which is \$35 for a NC resident and \$250 for a nonresident. Proceeds from the sale of the licenses to be remitted to non-reverting Sealife Enhancement Fund, which is to be used for resource and habitat enhancement (at least 25% of the moneys), law enforcement (20% to 25%), marine fisheries research (at least 25%), administration (not more than 10%), grants for coastal fishing programs, projects, and scholarships (not more than 5%), and public education (5% to 10%). Creates nine member Sealife Enhancement Advisory Committee (seven members appointed by Governor, plus Director of Division of Marine Fisheries and Chair of Marine Fisheries Comm'n) to advise Marine Fisheries Comm'n on Fund expenditures. Contract license agents are to be designated by Sec'y of Dep't of Environment and Natural Resources. Adds GS 143B-289.52(a)(13) giving the Marine Fisheries Commission the power to adopt rules to define fishing gear as either recreational or commercial. Requires the Joint Legis. Comm. on Seafood and Aquaculture to study issues related to the establishment of a unified recreational fishing license for recreational fishing in both inland and coastal fishing waters and present its findings to the 2002 Regular Session of the 2001 General Assembly. Authorizes temporary rules for implementation. Most sections of act effective March 1, 2003. Provisions on lifetime CRFL for holders of other lifetime licenses expires Dec. 31, 2003.

**Intro. by Redwine.**

Ref. to Environment	GS 113, STUDY
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