

March 26, 2007

**S 1494. SHELLFISH INDUSTRY ENHANCEMENTS.** Filed 3/26/07. *TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A PROFESSORSHIP DEDICATED TO SHELLFISH RESEARCH, TO ESTABLISH A SHELLFISH OMBUDSMAN, TO ESTABLISH A SHELLFISH RESOURCE GRANT PROGRAM, AND TO ESTABLISH THE ALBEMARLE SOUND RIVER HERRING MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.* Appropriates \$500,000 in recurring funds for 2007-08 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors to be allocated to the North Carolina Sea Grant to establish a professorship dedicated to shellfish research. Appropriates \$75,000 in recurring funds for 2007-08 from the General Fund to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Marine Fisheries to establish a shellfish ombudsman position in the Division of Marine Fisheries. Appropriates \$500,000 in recurring funds for 2007-08 from the General Fund to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Marine Fisheries to establish a Shellfish Resource Grant Program. Enacts new GS 113-200.1 establishing the Shellfish Resource Grant Program within the Sea Grant College Program at the University of North Carolina to protect and enhance the state's coastal fishery resources through individual grants in a number of areas. Establishes an 11-member Grant Committee that must establish funding priorities, evaluate grant proposals, and award grants. Provides for proposal solicitation, grant applications, grant review process, the grant award process, and grant distribution. Requires the Sea Grant College Program to report on the grant program to the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture annually by January 1. Appropriates \$362,000 in recurring funds for 2007-08 and \$199,948 in recurring funds for 2008-09 from the General Fund to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Marine Fisheries to establish the Albemarle Sound River Herring Management Program to monitor river herring in the Albemarle Sound. Effective July 1, 2007.

**Intro. by Weinstein.**

GS 113, APPROP