

March 31, 2009

H 918. DESIGNATION OF COASTAL GAME FISH. Filed 3/31/09. *TO DESIGNATE THE RED DRUM AND SPOTTED SEA TROUT AS COASTAL GAME FISH, TO PROHIBIT THE TAKING OF RED DRUM AND SPOTTED SEA TROUT OTHER THAN BY HOOK-AND-LINE, AND TO COMPENSATE COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FOR CERTAIN LOSSES DUE TO THE DESIGNATION AND PROHIBITION.*

Creates GS 113-192 to designate red drum and spotted sea trout as coastal game fish and to provide these species may only be taken by hook-and-line in coastal fishing waters. Also provides that they may not be sold, bartered, exchanged, or possessed for those purposes. Provides that Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) must make mitigation payments from the Marine Resources Fund to commercial fishermen who can demonstrate actual financial losses due to this prohibition. Sets the compensation at the average annual income from sale of these species from 2006 through 2008 and provides for payments in the years 2010, 2011, and 2012. Also provides for payment for the value of gear used exclusively to take these species in 2008 (with this payment to be made in 2010). Sets limit of \$1 million for these payments. Authorizes the Commission to adopt implementing rules. Effective July 1, 2009.

Intro. by Luebke, Justice.

GS 113