

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE DRS15054-LE-13 (01/27)

Short Title: Comm. Fishing Courses/Coastal Colleges. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Cook, Tillman, and Sanderson (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT URGING ALL COASTAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO OFFER COURSES ON
3 COMMERCIAL FISHING AND AQUACULTURE.

4 Whereas, the commercial fishing industry in North Carolina is a traditional maritime
5 industry that began in the early 18th century; and

6 Whereas, not only does commercial fishing bring fresh, local seafood to market, it is
7 a way of life and a mainstay of the coastal economy; and

8 Whereas, Carteret Community College supports commercial fishing by offering
9 classes in aquaculture; and

10 Whereas, these classes include (i) a 12-hour program of introductory courses that
11 leads to a certificate; (ii) a full-time, one-year program that includes training in more advanced
12 techniques; and (iii) a full-time, two-year course of study that leads to an associate's degree;
13 and

14 Whereas, the associate's degree program includes advanced instruction in issues
15 related to aquaculture, such as water quality, genetics, breeding, nutrition, and diseases; and

16 Whereas, some of these classes can be transferred to four-year marine biology
17 programs; and

18 Whereas, Brunswick Community College offers (i) an aquaculture program,
19 focusing on freshwater aquaculture and (ii) other classes via distance learning through a
20 cooperative arrangement with Carteret Community College; and

21 Whereas, community college classes in commercial fishing and aquaculture are not
22 uniformly available in the coastal area of the State; Now, therefore,
23 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

24 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly urges all community colleges serving the
25 coastal area of the State to offer classes on commercial fishing and aquaculture.

26 **SECTION 2.(a)** The North Carolina Community Colleges System Office shall
27 provide technical assistance to these colleges on offering such classes.

28 **SECTION 2.(b)** The North Carolina Community Colleges System Office shall
29 report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on any fiscal and administrative
30 issues it identifies that limit colleges' ability to offer such courses.

31 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

