

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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S.R. 370  
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE SIMPLE RESOLUTION DRSR15084-MH-99 (03/21)

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Sponsors: Senator Rabon (Primary Sponsor).

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Referred to:

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1 A SENATE RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PRIVATIZATION OF SOUTH ATLANTIC  
2 FEDERAL FISHERY RESOURCES THROUGH CATCH SHARE MANAGEMENT  
3 AND EFFORTS THROUGH EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS OR OTHER MEANS TO  
4 CONDUCT PILOT CATCH SHARE PROGRAMS OR STUDIES.

5 Whereas, "catch share" is a term for fishery management strategies that allocate a  
6 specific portion of the total allowable fishery catch to individuals or other entities, effectively  
7 giving private ownership of federal fishery resources to individuals and corporations; and

8 Whereas, in 2010, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
9 Fisheries adopted a national catch share policy, which states that "NOAA encourages the  
10 consideration and adoption of catch shares wherever appropriate in fishery management and  
11 ecosystem plans and their amendments, and will support the design, implementation, and  
12 monitoring of catch share programs"; and

13 Whereas, private ownership of federal fishery resources through catch share  
14 programs nationally has caused significant consolidation of fishing fleets, reducing access to  
15 the resource and causing significant fishing job losses to the detriment of fishing communities  
16 and the coastal economy; and

17 Whereas, a 2013 report by the Center for Investigative Reporting provides estimates  
18 that as many as 18,000 fishing jobs were lost and 3,700 vessels were no longer fishing in areas  
19 that had catch share programs, with those numbers being likely much higher now; and

20 Whereas, this year, a WVUE-TV, New Orleans, investigative report into the Gulf of  
21 Mexico commercial red snapper fishery catch share program stated that just "50 businesses and  
22 fishermen control 81% of the commercial red snapper allocation," causing many fishermen to  
23 lose access to the fishery or forcing them to pay exorbitant prices to buy or rent red snapper  
24 shares so they can remain employed in the fishery; and

25 Whereas, a 2013 NOAA study of the impacts of catch shares on southern New  
26 England fishermen and families found that 70% said they were "worse/much worse off" with  
27 catch shares; and

28 Whereas, fishery stakeholders in North Carolina and the South Atlantic are  
29 overwhelmingly opposed to catch share programs in federal waters as evidenced by 97% of the  
30 comments on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's long-range snapper-grouper  
31 fishery management plan being opposed to any form of catch shares; and

32 Whereas, studies by the Lenfest Ocean Program and reports by Food and Water  
33 Watch and others have shown that catch share programs provide no biological benefit or  
34 enhanced sustainability to fisheries; and

35 Whereas, saltwater fishing is economically very important to North Carolina, with  
36 recreational and commercial fishing in 2014 generating \$1,500,000,000 and \$115,000,000 in  
37 sales and supporting 16,007 and 3,220 jobs respectively, according to NOAA; Now, therefore,



1 Be it resolved by the Senate:

2           **SECTION 1.** That members of the Senate, by this resolution, oppose the use of  
3 catch share fisheries management in federal waters off North Carolina and in the South Atlantic  
4 and any efforts through exempted fishing permits or other means to conduct pilot catch share  
5 programs or studies.

6           **SECTION 2.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit copies of this resolution to the  
7 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, NOAA Fisheries, and the North Carolina Marine  
8 Fisheries Commission.

9           **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.