



**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 442**

AMENDMENT NO. A1
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H442-ABR-36 [v.2]

Page 1 of 3

Amends Title [YES]
Third Edition

Date _____, 2025

Senator Craven

1 moves to amend the bill by rewriting the Short Title to read:
2 "Flounder/Red Snapper Seasons & Shrimp Trawl";
3

4 and on page 1, lines 4–24, by rewriting those lines to read:
5 "PILOT PROGRAM AND TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF TRAWL NETS TO TAKE SHRIMP
6 IN COASTAL FISHING WATERS OR THE ATLANTIC OCEAN WITHIN ONE-HALF
7 MILE OF THE SHORELINE.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **RESTORE FLOUNDER AND RED SNAPPER SEASONS**

10 **SECTION 1.(a)** Findings. – The General Assembly makes the following findings:

- 11 (1) In 2024, the Division of Marine Fisheries of the Department of Environmental
12 Quality issued proclamations limiting the recreational harvest of flounder to
13 four days in joint fishing waters and the recreational harvest of red snapper to
14 one day.
- 15 (2) The recreational fishing industry contributes significantly to the economy of
16 coastal North Carolina.
- 17 (3) North Carolina's restrictions on recreational fishing of flounder and red
18 snapper are more stringent than any other Southeastern state from Virginia to
19 Texas.
- 20 (4) There is considerable overlap in the fish population between southeastern
21 counties of the State, such as Brunswick County, and South Carolina.
- 22 (5) Higher creel and season limits in South Carolina in 2024 gives that state a
23 significant competitive advantage in the competition for recreational fishing
24 tourism.
- 25 (6) State policies regarding recreational catch and release reporting and data
26 analysis overestimate overall mortality, thus skewing the science on the
27 flounder fishery.
- 28 (7) Coastal fishing charters or individual boats report catching large amounts of
29 these species by accident and having to release them, indicating the
30 populations are plentiful.



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(8) These unnecessarily strict and possibly unscientific restrictions on the recreational fishing industry forces recreational fishing customers and captains to move much of their business to South Carolina and Virginia.

SECTION 1.(b) Directive. – Notwithstanding G.S. 113-221.1 and G.S. 143B-289.52";

and on page 1, line 28, by rewriting the line to read:

"(1) Undertake a supplement to the Southern Flounder";

and on page 2, lines 14–15, by rewriting those lines to read

**"PROHIBIT SHRIMP TRAWLING IN ALL INSHORE FISHING WATERS AND
WITHIN ONE-HALF MILE OF THE SHORELINE**

SECTION 3.(a) G.S. 113-187(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Any person in charge of a commercial fishing operation conducted in violation of the following provisions of this Subchapter or the following rules of the Marine Fisheries Commission; and any person in charge of any vessel used in violation of the following provisions of the Subchapter or the following rules, shall be guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor. The violations of the statute or the rules for which the penalty is mandatory are:

(1) Taking or attempting to take, possess, sell, or offer for sale any oysters, mussels, or clams taken from areas closed by statute, rule, or proclamation because of suspected pollution.

(2) Taking or attempting to take or have in possession aboard a vessel, shrimp taken by the use of a trawl net, in areas not opened to shrimping, pulled by a vessel not showing lights required by G.S. 75A-6 after sunset and before sunrise.

(3) Using a trawl net in any coastal fishing waters closed by proclamation or rule to trawl nets.

(3a) Taking or attempting to take shrimp using a trawl net in any coastal fishing waters other than areas of the Atlantic Ocean located more than one-half mile from the shoreline.

(4) Violating the provisions of a special permit or gear license issued by the Department.

(5) Using or attempting to use any trawl net, long haul seine, swipe net, mechanical methods for oyster or clam harvest or dredge in designated primary nursery areas."

SECTION 3.(b) The Marine Fisheries Commission shall adopt temporary and permanent rules to implement this section.

SECTION 3.(c) This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 4.(a) If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications

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- 1 of this act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and, to this end,
2 the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.
3 **SECTION 4.(b)** Effective Date; Expiration. – Except as otherwise provided, this act
4 is effective when it becomes law. Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire August 1, 2029."

SIGNED _____
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED _____
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED _____ FAILED _____ TABLED _____