



**TOWN OF NAGS HEAD RESOLUTION
OPPOSING ACTION TAKEN BY MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
WITHOUT ADEQUATE PUBLIC NOTICE
RE: COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATION**

WHEREAS, commercial fishing is a vital part of North Carolina's history, heritage, and culture and represents a crucial component of the economy for the Town of Nags Head, Dare County, and other coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has declared it to be the public policy of North Carolina that the hearings, deliberations, and actions of public bodies be conducted publicly - N.C.G.S. § 143-318.9; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) met on February 15, 2018 to consider proposed changes in the definition of a commercial fisherman prepared by a three member committee; and

WHEREAS, at that meeting, a previously un-seen proposal was presented to the MFC for consideration while the original proposal prepared by the three member committee was never considered or discussed; and

WHEREAS, the commission members and the public did not have a chance to review the un-seen proposal prior to the meeting; and

WHEREAS, although the Final Report from the Fishing License Review Taskforce clearly stated its recommendation that "no changes are needed to the existing definition" and only 10% of the public comments received were in support of changing the definition; and

WHEREAS, the MFC adopted the un-seen proposal changing the definition of a commercial fisherman without the chance for public input and without taking into consideration the 90% in favor of no changes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nags Head Board of Commissioners requests that the Marine Fisheries Commission repeal its action from their February 15, 2018 meeting to adopt a resolution modifying the definition of commercial fisherman.

Adopted this the 14th day of March 2018.

Benjamin Calhoun, Mayor
Town of Nags Head

ATTEST:

Carolyn F. Morris, Town Clerk

