



**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING NORTH CAROLINA HB 1122
THAT WOULD LIMIT MARINE NET FISHING**

WHEREAS, House Bill 1122 has been introduced in the North Carolina legislature to put a referendum on the ballot in the 2016 general election that would limit marine net fishing purportedly to protect saltwater finfish, shellfish, and other marine animals from unnecessary killing, overfishing, and waste; and

WHEREAS, net fishing has been a vibrant and successful part of North Carolina's heritage and culture for all of its recorded history and represents a means by which commercial fishermen create jobs, provide for their families, and contribute to the economic well-being of North Carolina's coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, commercial net fishing is a vital part of the economic engine that responsibly harvests fresh, healthy seafood from North Carolina's coastal waters for distribution to American tables; and

WHEREAS, existing state and federal regulations provide ample provisions for the monitoring and regulation of commercial net fishing activity with serious penalties and sanctions for rule violations, which have proven to be effective in preventing unnecessary killing, overfishing, and waste; and

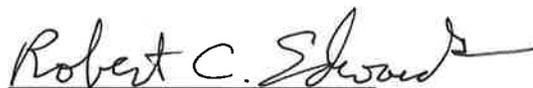
WHEREAS, there is no peer reviewed science to support an arbitrary ban on commercial net fishing, which would have an immediate and long lasting devastating impact on North Carolina's fishermen, many of whom have no other means to earn a living; and

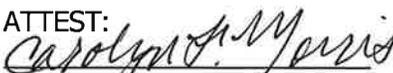
WHEREAS, with the 2016 general election less than six months away, North Carolina's commercial fishermen will not have adequate time before the proposed referendum to properly educate the public about the sustainability of net fishing and the way it benefits North Carolina's economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Nags Head Board of Commissioners hereby opposes HB 1122 and any other measure that would arbitrarily impair the livelihood of North Carolina's hard working commercial net fishermen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nags Head Board of Commissioners urges all coastal communities to support North Carolina's working watermen and adopt similar resolutions in opposition of HB 1122.

Adopted this the 1st day of June, 2016.


Robert C. Edwards, Mayor
Town of Nags Head

ATTEST:

Carolyn F. Morris, Town Clerk