BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
COUNTY OF HYDE, NORTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE HOUSE BILL DRH60052-SB-13
"DESIGNATION OF COASTAL GAME FISH"

WHEREAS , the Fisheries Reform Act (FRA) recognizes that commercial fishermen perform an essential function by providing wholesome food for the citizens of the State while struggling to earn a living in an industry whose resources are managed by both the State and Federal agencies and whose labor accounts for revenue, jobs and is significant to the tax base; and

WHEREAS, designating "Game Fish Status" for Red Drum, Striped Bass, Spotted Sea Trout and other fish species will deprive consumers in North Carolina and the nation of access to fresh, locally harvested seafood; and

WHEREAS, allocating 100% of the resources to less than 3% of the population of our state and to specific user groups would be a travesty of fairness, a violation of the Fisheries Reform Act, and devastating to the economies of coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, designating a resource to "Game Fish Status Only" has never enhanced the resource, and will threaten coastal communities with the loss of jobs and access for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina, as a recognized leading producer of seafood, has one of the most diverse fisheries in the United States and should be allowed to continue harvesting wild caught fish species in order to bring to market a wonderfully fresh, sustainably managed, revenue producing, proven resource for all its citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hyde County Board of Commissioners strongly oppose imposing "Game Fish Status" by the legislature, and ask that they honor the Fisheries Reform Act by continuing to make all fish species available for the benefit and enjoyment of all North Carolina citizens.

Adopted this the 21st day of March, 2011 in Hyde County, North Carolina.

Sharon P. Spencer

Sharon P. Spencer, Chair
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Attested by:

Mazie S. Smith

Mazie S. Smith, Clerk to the Board
Hyde County Board of Commissioners