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**CARTERET COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE TRAWL BAN AMENDMENT TO H.B. 442**

WHEREAS, the shrimp trawling industry is a vital economic driver for Carteret County, supporting hundreds of commercial fishing families, seafood processors, and related businesses; and

WHEREAS, a proposed amendment to H.B. 442 seeks to ban shrimp trawling in all inside coastal waters and within one-half mile of the shoreline, which would devastate North Carolina's shrimp industry and threaten the livelihoods of local fishermen; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina shrimp fishery is already one of the most heavily regulated in the nation, with measures in place to ensure sustainable harvests, including bycatch reduction devices, turtle excluder devices, and seasonal closures; and

WHEREAS, the sudden implementation of a sweeping trawl ban would harm coastal economies, increase reliance on imported seafood, and disregard the years of science-based management by the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission; and

WHEREAS, this amendment was introduced without sufficient stakeholder input, scientific review, or economic impact analysis, bypassing proper legislative deliberation, and threatens a deeply historic way of life and sustenance for many Down East families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Carteret County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes the trawl ban amendment to H.B. 442 and urges the North Carolina Senate Agriculture, Energy, and Environment Committee to reject this harmful proposal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board calls on all members of the Senate Committee and the General Assembly to engage with fishermen, scientists, and coastal leaders before advancing any measure that would cripple a historic and sustainable fishery;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Josh Stein, Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger, House Speaker Destin Hall, the members of the Senate Agriculture, Energy, and Environment Committee, and all Carteret County legislative delegates.

By the Carteret County Board of Commissioners this 16th day of June, 2025.


Chris Chadwick, Chairman


Lori Turner, County Clerk

