

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1282

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Sponsors: Representatives Richardson; Black, Bowman, Colton, DeVane, Flaherty, Gottovi, Hackney, Hightower, Justus, Lemmond, McCombs, C. Preston, Spears, and Warner.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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May 6, 1993

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
2 COMMISSION TO STUDY THE EFFECT OF THE USE OF COMMERCIAL  
3 NETS ON FISH AND SHELLFISH STOCKS AND THEIR ESTUARINE  
4 HABITATS.

5       Whereas, the marine fishery resource is a valuable natural resource, providing  
6 jobs and aesthetic value to the citizens of North Carolina; and

7       Whereas, 14 of 22 species of fish monitored by the Division of Marine  
8 Fisheries are classified as stressed or overharvested; and

9       Whereas, certain stocks of fish, such as weakfish, croaker, and striped bass  
10 are in serious trouble, due largely to overharvest; and

11       Whereas, North Carolina has little regulation of the amount, type, or  
12 placement of highly efficient commercial nets in North Carolina waters, with records  
13 indicating there are over 9,600 shrimp trawls, 8,400,000 yards of gill net, and over 840  
14 pound nets; and

15       Whereas, anyone, regardless of training or financial need, can purchase and  
16 use any of these commercial nets; and

17       Whereas, the Division of Marine Fisheries has done little to study the effects  
18 of these commercial nets on both fish and shellfish stocks and their estuarine habitats;  
19 and

1           Whereas, neighboring states regulate the use of commercial nets and  
2 require that the more destructive gears like shrimp trawls be moved out of fragile  
3 estuarine waters;

4 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

5           Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission may study the effects that  
6 the use of commercial nets has on fish and shellfish stock and their estuarine habitats,  
7 and the need, if any, to regulate the use of commercial nets and other types of gear. The  
8 Legislative Research Commission may also study any other issues relevant to this  
9 subject.

10          Sec. 2. The Legislative Research Commission may report its findings and  
11 recommendations in an interim report to the 1993 General Assembly, 1994 Regular  
12 Session, and shall make a final report to the 1995 General Assembly.

13          Sec. 3. This resolution is effective upon ratification.