



**Resolution Opposing House Bill 353 re: 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 State and Federal agencies and whose labor accounts for revenue, jobs, and a significant 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 across the nation of access to fresh locally harvested seafood; AND

**WHEREAS**, allocating 100% of the resource 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 FRA, and devastating to the economies of coastal communities; AND

**WHEREAS**, degrading 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, protein resource for all its citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Nags Head Board of Commissioners requests that the North Carolina General Assembly oppose "Game Fish Status" and honor The Fisheries Reform Act by continuing to make all fish species available for the benefit and enjoyment of all North Carolina citizens.

This the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2011.

Robert O. Oakes, Mayor  
Town of Nags Head

ATTEST:

Carolyn F. Morris, Town Clerk

