



SENATE BILL 374: Modify For-Hire License Logbook Requirement

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources	Date:	April 22, 2015
Introduced by:	Sen. Cook	Prepared by:	Jeff Hudson
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 374 would make voluntary the requirement that for-hire coastal recreational fishing licensees maintain a logbook of catch and effort statistical data; delay implementation of the logbook reporting provision; require the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (Division) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to conduct a 12-month implementation process of the reporting requirement, including forming a stakeholder advisory group; and prohibit the Director of the Division (Fisheries Director) from entering into a Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

CURRENT LAW: The 2013 Appropriations Act established a new reporting requirement that for-hire coastal recreational fishing licensees submit logbooks summarizing catch and effort statistical data to the Division. The 2014 Appropriations Act authorized the Fisheries Director to enter into an agreement with NMFS allowing marine inspectors to accept delegation of law enforcement powers over matters within the jurisdiction of NMFS.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would make the requirement for logbook reporting of catch and effort statistical data by for-hire coastal recreational fishing licensees voluntary.

Section 2 would delay the implementation for logbook reporting of catch and effort statistical data by for-hire coastal recreational fishing licensees until January 1, 2016.

Section 3 would require the Division to conduct a 12-month implementation process that would include seeking input from stakeholders by forming a stakeholder advisory group with regard to the logbook reporting requirement and holding public workshops for persons subject to the logbook reporting requirement. The Division would establish a stakeholder advisory group with representation from all major recreational fishing areas on the North Carolina coast. The Division would provide written responses to any issues raised by the advisory group and would report to the Environmental Review Commission no later than January 15, 2016.

Section 4 would prohibit the Fisheries Director from entering into a JEA with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) allowing marine inspectors to accept delegation of law enforcement powers over matters within the jurisdiction of NMFS. Section 4 would also make a conforming change by repealing a provision allowing marine inspectors to assume such law enforcement powers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective when it becomes law.

Layla Cummings, counsel to Senate Commerce, substantially contributed to this summary.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



Research Division
(919) 733-2578