



SENATE BILL 374: Modify For-Hire License Logbook Requirement

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:

Introduced by:

Analysis of: S.L. 2015-201

Date:

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SUMMARY: *S.L. 2015-201 repeals the requirement that for-hire coastal recreational fishing license holders maintain a logbook of catch and effort statistical data; requires the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (Division) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to conduct a study of the reporting requirement, including forming a stakeholder advisory group; prohibits the Director of the Division (Fisheries Director) from entering into a Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); and requires the Division to conduct a study on the advisability of reenacting authorization for the Division to enter into a JEA with the NMFS, including a 12-month process to seek input from stakeholders.*

This act became effective August 5, 2015.

CURRENT LAW: The 2013 Appropriations Act established a new reporting requirement that for-hire coastal recreational fishing license holders 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 repeals the requirement for logbook reporting of catch and effort statistical data by for-hire coastal recreational fishing licensees.

Section 2 requires the Division to study the advisability of implementing a requirement of logbook reporting of catch and effort statistical data by for-hire coastal recreational fishing license holders. The Division will conduct the study in consultation with a stakeholder advisory group that includes persons who are for-hire license holders representing all major recreational fishing areas on the North Carolina coast, commercial fishing license holders on the North Carolina coast, and relevant Division staff. The Division will report to the Environmental Review Commission no later than January 15, 2016.

Section 3 prohibits the Fisheries Director from entering into a JEA with the NMFS allowing marine inspectors to accept delegation of law enforcement powers over matters within the jurisdiction of NMFS. Section 3 also makes a conforming change by repealing a provision allowing marine inspectors to assume such law enforcement powers.

Section 4 requires the Division to conduct a 12-month process to seek input from stakeholders on the impacts, costs, and benefits of entering into a JEA with the NMFS and whether authorization to enter into such an agreement should be reenacted. The study requires the establishment and consultation with a stakeholder advisory group that includes persons who are for-hire license holders representing all major recreational fishing areas on the North Carolina coast, commercial fishing license holders on the

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Senate Bill 374

Page 2

North Carolina coast, and relevant Division staff. The Division will report to the Environmental Review Commission no later than October 15, 2016.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act became effective August 5, 2015.