



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

SENATE BILL 374: Modify For-Hire License Logbook Requirement

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Re-ref to Commerce. If fav, re-ref to Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources	Date:	April 21, 2015
Introduced by:	Sen. Cook	Prepared by:	Layla Cummings Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition S374-CSMH-3 [v.3]		

SUMMARY: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for 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 requirement, and 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.*

CURRENT LAW: The 2013 Appropriations Act mandated a new reporting requirement that for-hire coastal recreational fishing licensees submit logbooks summarizing catch and effort statistical data to the Division and allowed the NC Marine Fisheries Commission to adopt rules to implement the logbook reporting.

BILL ANALYSIS:

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

Section 2 of the PCS 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 of the PCS 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.

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

BACKGROUND: Catch and effort statistical data is measured by "Catch Per Unit of Effort" which is defined as the number of fish caught by an amount of effort. Typically, effort is a combination of gear type, gear size, and length of time gear is used. Catch per unit of effort is often used as a measurement of relative abundance for a particular fish.

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