



# HOUSE BILL 483: Let Them Spawn.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	June 18, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Yarborough, Saine, Wray, B. Turner	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jeff Hudson
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to Second Edition H483-CSSBa-10		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute for House Bill 483 would require that each Fishery Management Plan for a species that has contributed historically and significantly to the fisheries of North Carolina include a minimum size limit to ensure that 75% of the juvenile fish of that species reach maturity and have an opportunity to spawn at least once.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Under current law, the Department of Environmental Quality (Department) and its Division of Marine Fisheries (Division) must prepare proposed Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for adoption by the Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) for all commercially or recreationally significant species or fisheries that comprise the marine or estuarine resources of the State. The goal of the FMPs is to ensure the long-term viability of the State's commercially and recreationally significant species or fisheries. Among other things, each FMP must:

- Contain necessary information pertaining to the fishery or fisheries.
- Recommend management actions pertaining to the fishery or fisheries.
- Include conservation and management measures that will provide the greatest overall benefit to the State and that will produce a sustainable harvest.
- Specify a time period, not to exceed two years from the date of the adoption of the FMP, to end overfishing.
- Specify a time period, not to exceed 10 years from the date of the adoption of the FMP, for achieving a sustainable harvest.
- Include a standard of at least fifty percent (50%) probability of achieving sustainable harvest for the fishery or fisheries.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The Proposed Committee Substitute for House Bill 483 (PCS) would add an additional requirement that each FMP must include a minimum size limit for every species of marine fish that has contributed historically and significantly to the fisheries of North Carolina, including spot, Atlantic croaker, kingfishes, striped mullet, southern flounder, and bluefish, to ensure that 75% of the juvenile fish at the minimum size limit established for the species have reached the size of maturity and have had an opportunity to spawn at least once. The Commission would be required to adopt rules to implement the act and while the revised FMPs are being developed, the Division and Commission would establish temporary management measures for the minimum size limits required by the act.

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The PCS would also provide that \$10,000 of the funds appropriated to the Division of North Carolina Aquariums in the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for planning and permitting of a satellite aquarium area, would instead be reallocated for implementation of this act.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective when it becomes law and apply to current and future FMPs.