



HOUSE BILL 1113: Shellfish Leasing Moratoria.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	June 9, 2026
Introduced by:	Rep. Davis	Prepared by:	Kyle Evans
Analysis of:	Third Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: House Bill 1113 would extend the moratorium on shellfish leasing in New Hanover County until July 1, 2031, and would appropriate \$10,000 to the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Marine Fisheries (Department) for public education activities related to this moratorium extension. It would also extend the moratorium on shellfish leasing in Bogue Soud until July 1, 2028. It also would create a moratorium on new shellfish leases and water column leases for aquaculture in parts of Pender and Onslow Counties until July 1, 2028.

CURRENT LAW: Section 7 of S.L. 2019-37 established a two-year moratorium on new shellfish cultivation leases and new water column leases for aquaculture for the New Hanover County area and for Bogue Soud until July 1, 2021. The moratoria were extended for five years in Section 12.3 of S.L. 2021-180 and are set to expire on July 1, 2026.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would extend the moratorium on new shellfish cultivation leases and new water column leases for aquaculture for the New Hanover County area until July 1, 2031.

Section 2 would appropriate \$10,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year from the General Fund to the Department for public education activities related to the moratorium extension.

Section 2.5 would extend the moratorium on new shellfish cultivation leases and new water column leases for aquaculture for Bogue Sound until July 1, 2028.

Section 3 would impose a moratorium on new shellfish cultivation leases and new water column leases for aquaculture in parts of Pender and Onslow Counties area until July 1, 2028.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The extension of the moratoria in New Hanover County and Bogue Sound would become effective June 30, 2026, and would apply to the Department's consideration of applications for shellfish leases submitted on or after that date and to applications received but not granted as of July 1, 2019. The appropriation in Section 2 would become effective July 1, 2026. The moratorium in parts of Pender and Onslow Counties would become effective July 1, 2026, and would apply to the Department's consideration of applications for shellfish leases submitted to the Department on or after that date as well as applications for a new shellfish cultivation lease or a new water column lease received by the Secretary, but not granted as of July 1, 2025.

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