



# HOUSE BILL 1113: Extend Shellfish Leasing Moratorium.

2025-2026 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	May 19, 2026
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Rep. Davis	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Brad Krehely
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H1113-CSMHa-8		Committee Co-Counsel

**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. The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) 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, and correct the geographical description in the New Hanover County portion of the bill.

**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 until July 1, 2021. The moratorium was extended for five years in Section 12.3 of S.L. 2021-180 and is set to expire on July 1, 2026.

**BILL ANALYSIS:**

**Section 1 of the PCS** 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 of the PCS** 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 3 of the PCS** 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 moratorium in New Hanover County 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.

Kara McCraw  
Director



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Legislative Analysis  
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