



TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

Land Where Flight Began

Resolution in Opposition to any Changes to the N.C. Shrimp Fisheries Management Plan

WHEREAS, in 1992, North Carolina became the first state to require all shrimp trawlers to use bycatch reduction devices (BRDs); and

WHEREAS, the NC Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) adopted the NC Shrimp Fisheries Management Plan in April of 2006 to reduce bycatch from both commercial and recreational shrimping; and

WHEREAS, the NCDMF adopted Amendment 1 to the NC Shrimp Fisheries Management Plan in February 2015 that recommended a wider range of certified BRDs to choose from and the requirement of two BRDs in shrimp trawls and skimmer trawls beginning June 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 this action made North Carolina the first and only state to require the use of two federally and/or state certified BRDs; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, five experimental gear combinations were tested during the summer on large vessels and during the summer and fall of 2016, four additional gear combinations were tested on large vessels in the Pamlico Sound; and

WHEREAS, in the final year of the study, 2017, three gear combinations were tested on both small and large vessels in the Atlantic Ocean and the Pamlico Sound; and

WHEREAS, four of the twelve gear combinations tested met or exceeded the 40% target reduction in finfish bycatch while also minimizing shrimp loss (Brown, et al., 2017, 2018); and

WHEREAS, overall, finfish bycatch reductions ranged from 4.5% to 57.2% and differences in shrimp catch between the control and experimental nets ranged from a 16.2% loss to a 9.9% gain; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, NCDMF required all shrimp trawlers operating in the Pamlico Sound and its tributaries to use one of the four gear combinations which were tested and shown to reduce the finfish bycatch by 40% to 57%; and

WHEREAS, shrimp trawling in North Carolina estuarine waters is prohibited during the weekend, and nighttime trawling is also prohibited in several areas; and

WHEREAS, approximately one million acres are permanently closed to shrimp trawling, which account for 47% of the state's estuary; and

WHEREAS, 200,000 acres are closed seasonally to shrimp trawling with a combined total of 1,886 square miles, which are permanently or seasonally closed to shrimp trawling; and

WHEREAS, now, further regulation is proposed to be placed on North Carolina's commercial shrimpers by permanently or seasonally closed areas in Dare County to commercial shrimping; and

WHEREAS, a scoping document period was held January 7-21, 2020, to solicit public comments on potential management strategies for Amendment 2 to the NC Shrimp Fisheries Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, fishery stakeholders provided in-person comments at three scoping meetings which were held in Washington, Morehead City, and Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 2 proposes that the Northern Region would include the Croatan Sound, Roanoke Sound, Pamlico Sound, Pamlico River, Bay River, Neuse River and their tributaries along with extending existing closure in the mouth of Stumpy Point Bay; and

WHEREAS, 228,733 acres would close to shrimp trawling if selected; and

WHEREAS, the soundside waters off the Town of Kill Devil Hills and the Outer Banks community will be greatly impacted by the proposed permanent and seasonal closures to shrimp trawling; and

WHEREAS, the Outer Banks have been a bastion of recreational and commercial fishing since before North Carolina's statehood; and

WHEREAS, the negative impacts of Amendment 2 to the NC Shrimp Fisheries Management Plan, if adopted and implemented, will be realized by every Outer Banks commercial shrimper, every seafood vendor, every restaurant that depend on North Carolina wild-caught shrimp to help them make their living; and

WHEREAS, passage of Amendment 2 will only erase a huge part of our state's heritage, and deny the opportunity for thousands and thousands of people to enjoy the delicacy and excellence of North Carolina wild-caught shrimp; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners for Kill Devil Hills strongly opposes any changes to the N.C. Shrimp Fisheries Management Plan, as directed by Amendment 2, while recognizing the North Carolina shrimp fisheries as leading the nation in bycatch reduction under current North Carolina rules and law.

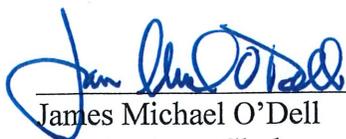
This the 16th day of November, 2021.

SEAL



Benjamin A. Sproul
Mayor

ATTEST:


James Michael O'Dell
Deputy Town Clerk

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

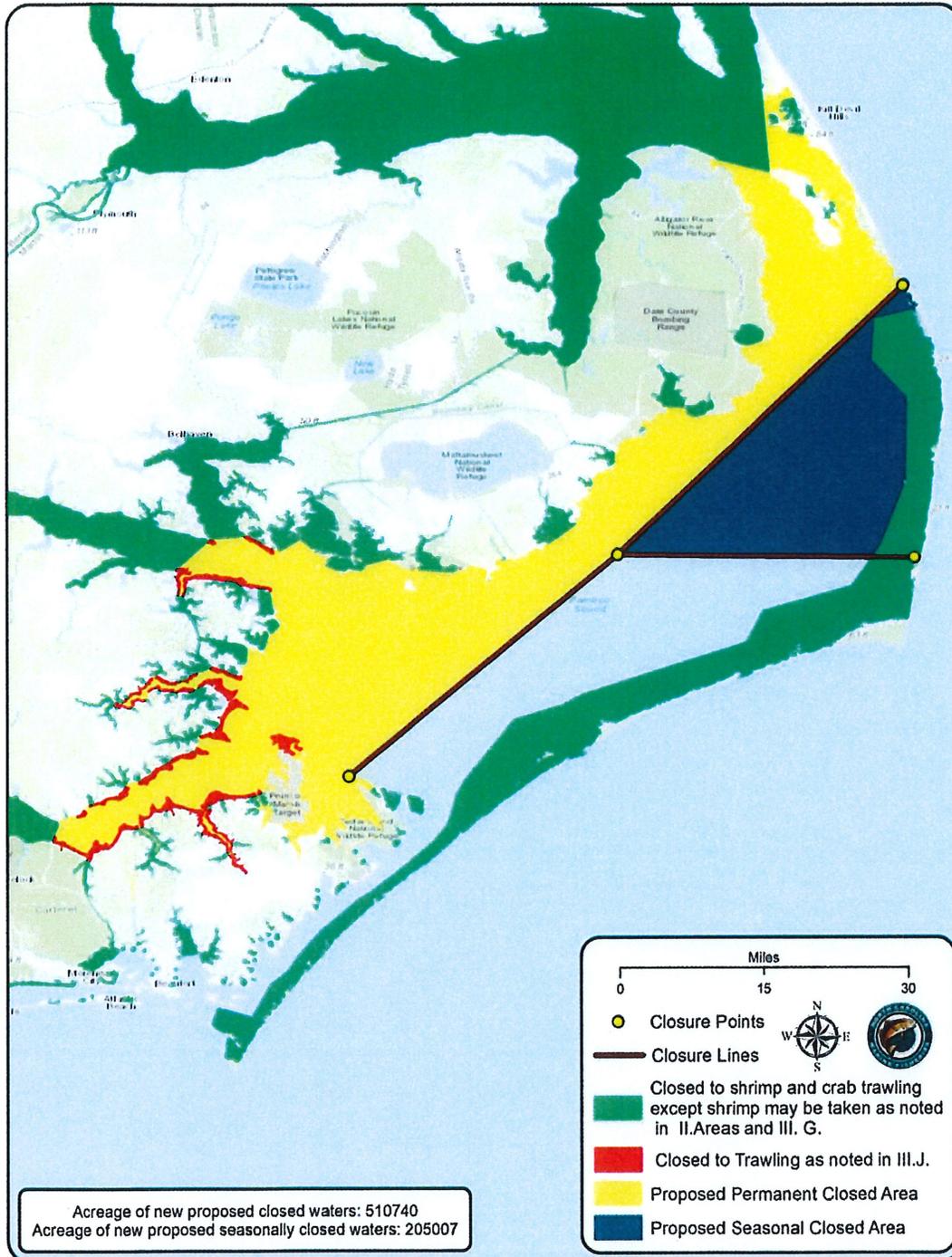


Figure 2.3.17. Example of Pamlico Sound area closure. No shrimp trawling would be permitted in internal coastal waters north and west of the larger red line (permanent closure). No shrimp trawling would be permitted north of the smaller red line from August 1 through November 30.