



TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

Land Where Flight Began

Resolution in Opposition to Proposed Limits on the Landing of Blue Crabs by the Division of Marine Fisheries

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries website notes that *“Seafood harvesters are stewards of our ocean. Their livelihoods depend on healthy, thriving marine ecosystems. They have a unique knowledge of the ocean, which they pass on to their communities and down through generations. These harvesters are at the forefront of ensuring food security, providing jobs, and supporting the well-being of both the ocean they work in and the communities they feed.”* (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/insight/faces-sustainable-seafood>); and

WHEREAS, Kill Devil Hills prides itself on the rich heritage of life and community upon the waters and their bounty, with our community boasting of its historic fishing legacy over hundreds of years; and

WHEREAS, the Outer Banks and the coastal communities of North Carolina make a significant contribution to the state’s commercial fishing industry, with blue crab landings playing an essential role in the coastal economy; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Marine Fisheries has recommended proposed Blue Crab landing regulations that include a 10-bushel trip limit for mature female crabs (June to December) and a prohibition on the harvest of mature female crabs (January to May), with all other blue crab management measures remaining in place; and

WHEREAS, based on the 2019-2023 average landings of Blue Crabs, the proposed regulations are anticipated to result in a 21.7% decrease, negatively impacting the seafood industry, including watermen and their families, seafood processors and their employees, and the overall economy; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Sea Grant found that North Carolina’s wild and farmed shellfish industry contributed \$31.7 million to the state’s economy in 2022 alone; and

WHEREAS, these proposed regulations would irreparably harm the state’s seafood industry and ultimately, the Northeastern North Carolina’s overall economy; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Kill Devil Hills opposes the proposed regulations by the Division of Marine Fisheries which will economically hurt working watermen and the seafood industry in Northeastern North Carolina; and

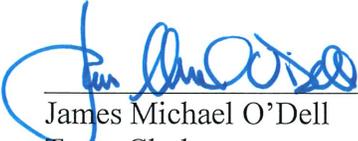
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners encourages the public to stand with the working watermen of North Carolina and contact the Division of Marine Fisheries to share its opposition to these proposed changes.

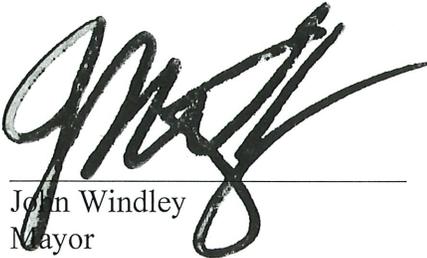
This 13th day of October, 2025.

SEAL



ATTEST:


James Michael O'Dell
Town Clerk


John Windley
Mayor