



Town of Kitty Hawk

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Mayor
 Craig Garriss

Mayor Pro Tem
 Jeff Pruitt

Councilman
 David Hines

Councilman
 Dylan Tillett

Councilwoman
 Charlotte Walker

Town Manager
 Melody Clopton

Town Clerk
 Lauren Garrett

Town Attorney
 Casey C. Varnell

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, the Town of Kitty Hawk 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 Town Council for the Town of Kitty Hawk 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 Town Council 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 3rd day of November, 2025.

D. Craig Garriss
D. Craig Garriss, Mayor

SEAL



ATTEST:

Lauren Fox Garrett
Lauren Fox Garrett, Town Clerk