



The Impact of Healthy Fisheries in North Carolina

In 2017 the North Carolina Sound Economy commissioned a groundbreaking study to examine a conservation-oriented fishery management strategy for North Carolina. The study was conducted by The University of Maryland Center for environmental Science (UMCES) in collaboration with an economist from the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW).

This 2017 study suggests that if we had healthy fisheries in NC there would be a 4.2 billion dollar economic impact to the NC economy over the next 30 years, adding 1500 new jobs and 1.6 billion in labor income. That is 140 million per year or almost 12 million per month, the majority of the benefit going to our coastal communities.

With healthy fish stocks our coastal hotels would be full during the months of September through December, typically a very slow time for our coastal communities. Likewise, restaurants, tackle shops, boat dealers, and the citizens of North Carolina would reap the benefits of healthy fisheries like our neighboring coastal states do. With the state of our fisheries, there is no wonder that fisherman go to South Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, and Florida **to spend thousands of dollars on recreational fishing.**

Politics and money have blurred the vision of Governor Cooper, his administration and our legislators. We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars recruiting new companies to move to NC, touting the economic impact that it will have. Yet, they have turned a blind eye to our coastal marine resources and our coastal communities. **The irony is that to reap the benefits of a 4.2 billion dollar economic impact to the state and citizens of NC it will only take good fisheries management practices, no other investments.**

How simple can it be.