



Senator Berger:

SUBJECT: The Demise of our Marine Resources

It's time that we come to the rescue of our **diminishing coastal marine resources**. It's time that **YOU affect change in the way North Carolina manages our coastal marine resources**.

It's time that the **legislature does the right thing for our citizens**, instead of acting in their own political interests. **After all, it's the most significant environmental issue facing North Carolina today**.

Since the enactment of the **Fisheries Reform Act of 1997**, **North Carolina fisheries have been in significant decline across all fisheries**. The citizens of North Carolina are demanding reform to our failing fisheries and an update to the Fisheries Reform Act of 1997 is way overdue. **Fish landings have decreased over the past two decades from 38.5 million pounds to 4.9 million pounds, an 88% decrease**. Without meaningful change the decline will continue. This historic **failure of coastal fisheries management is a failure in governance by the states Executive Branch**, which includes the **Governor**, the **Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)**, the **Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF)** and the **Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC)**. The leadership of DEQ and DMF serve at the pleasure of the Governor and the **Governor has appointed all 9 members of the MFC**.

The North Carolina Coastal Fisheries Reform Group has clearly described in our website (NCCFRG.ORG) the issues and necessary remedies to **protect, preserve, and replenish our precious coastal marine resources**.

We are already spreading the word to your constituents through a coordinated and district-targeted digital media campaign (@nccfrg on Instagram and Facebook). Plans are in place to conduct press conferences, create press releases, and organize an aggressive outreach to state and national news outlets.

It is estimated that healthy fisheries in North Carolina would have an economic impact of 4.2 billion dollars over the next 30 years and add approximately 1500 new jobs. We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars recruiting new companies to NC and give up tax incentives amounting to millions. **We can add 1500 jobs and 4.2 billion dollars of economic impact by simply managing our coastal marine resources**. **We don't have to spend a dime, just make good fishery management decisions based on data and science not on politics and money**.

The citizens of North Carolina want to know if you support preserving, protecting, and replenishing our coastal marine resources for **ALL** of the citizens of NC? **DO YOU? Your response will be noted and shared with the specific constituents in YOUR district, along with all of the citizens in North Carolina**.

Joe Albea, Dave Sammons, Bob Crone

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