

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE BILL 402

Short Title: Increase Fisheries Fines.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Basnight.

Referred to: Marine Resources & Wildlife.

March 13, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH SEVERE PENALTIES FOR DELIBERATELY
HARVESTING POLLUTED SHELLFISH AND TO INCREASE FINES FOR
VIOLATIONS OF MARINE FISHERIES STATUTES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Article 16 of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 113-209. Taking polluted shellfish at night or with prior conviction forbidden; penalty.

(a) It is unlawful for any person between sunset and sunrise to take or attempt to take shellfish from areas closed to harvest by statute, rule, or proclamation because of suspected pollution.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to possess, sell or offer for sale shellfish taken between sunset and sunrise from areas closed to harvest by statute, rule, or proclamation because of suspected pollution.

(c) It is unlawful for any person who has been convicted of an offense under this Chapter within the preceding two years involving shellfish taken from areas closed because of suspected pollution to take, attempt to take, possess, sell or offer for sale shellfish from areas closed to harvest by statute, rule, or proclamation because of suspected pollution.

(d) Any person violating any provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class I felony and upon conviction shall, at a minimum, be fined no less than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or be imprisoned for no less than one year. A second or subsequent conviction under this section within two years of a preceding conviction

1 shall be punished by imprisonment for no less than three years. Upon conviction of any
2 person for a violation of this section, the court shall order the confiscation of all
3 weapons, equipment, vessels, vehicles, conveyances, fish, and other evidence, fruit, and
4 instrumentalities of the offense. The confiscated property shall be disposed of in
5 accordance with G.S. 113-137."

6 Sec. 2. G.S. 113-187 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 113-187. Penalties for violations of Article Subchapter and rules.**

8 (a) ~~It is unlawful for any~~ Any person to who participate-participates in a any
9 commercial fishing operation conducted in violation of any provision of this ~~Article~~
10 ~~Subchapter~~ and its implementing rules or in ~~any-an~~ operation in connection with which
11 any vessel is used in violation of any provision of this ~~Article Subchapter~~ and its
12 implementing ~~rules-rules~~ is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable in the discretion of the
13 court.

14 (b) Any owner of a vessel who knowingly permits it to be used in violation of
15 any provision of this ~~Article Subchapter~~ and its implementing rules is guilty of a
16 misdemeanor punishable in the discretion of the court.

17 (c) Any person in charge of a commercial fishing operation conducted in
18 violation of any provision of this ~~Article Subchapter~~ and its implementing rules or in
19 charge of any vessel used in violation of any provision of this ~~Article Subchapter~~ and its
20 implementing rules is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable in the discretion of the court.

21 (d) Any person in charge of a commercial fishing operation conducted in
22 violation of the following provisions of this Subchapter or the following rules ~~and~~
23 ~~regulations [and rules]~~ of the Marine Fisheries Commission; and any person in charge of
24 any vessel used in violation of the following provisions of the Subchapter or the
25 following ~~rules and regulations [and rules]~~, rules, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor
26 punishable by a fine of not less than ~~fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than two hundred fifty~~
27 ~~dollars (\$250.00) for the first offense and not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor~~
28 ~~more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for any offense thereafter, or imprisonment for~~
29 ~~not more than 30 days, six months, or both. The violations of the statute or the rules and~~
30 ~~regulations [and rules] for which this the penalty is mandatory are:~~

31 (1) Taking or attempting to take, possess, sell, or offer for sale any ~~oysters~~
32 oysters, mussels, or clams taken from areas closed by statute, rule, or
33 proclamation because of suspected pollution.

34 (2) Taking or attempting to take or have in possession aboard a vessel,
35 shrimp taken by the use of a trawl ~~net between January 1 and the date~~
36 ~~upon which the shrimping season shall be opened by the Secretary. net, in~~
37 areas not opened to shrimping, pulled by a vessel not showing lights
38 required by G.S. 75A-6 after sunset and before sunrise.

39 (3) Using a trawl net in any coastal fishing waters closed by proclamation
40 or rule ~~for the protection of the shrimp population or juveniles of any~~
41 ~~other species of major economic importance to trawl nets.~~

42 (4) Violating the provisions of a special permit or gear license issued by
43 the Department.

1 (5) Using or attempting to use any trawl ~~net~~-net, long haul seine, swipe
2 net, mechanical methods for oyster or clam harvest or dredge in
3 designated primary nursery areas."

4 Sec. 3. This act shall become effective October 1, 1989, and shall apply to
5 offenses occurring on or after that date.