

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 513
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40327-MH-119

Short Title: Peoples' Choice for Marine Sources. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Richardson.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A REFERENDUM TO LIMIT INDISCRIMINATE NET
3 FISHING IN THE COASTAL WATERS OF THE STATE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. Article 15 of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
6 a new section to read:

7 "**§ 113-192. Regulation of marine net fishing.**

8 (a) Purpose. – The marine resources of the State of North Carolina belong to all of the
9 people of the State and should be conserved and managed for the benefit of the State, its people,
10 and future generations. To this end, the General Assembly enacts limitations on marine net
11 fishing in coastal fishing waters to protect saltwater finfish, shellfish, and other marine animals
12 from unnecessary killing, overfishing, and waste.

13 (b) Net Prohibition. – It is unlawful to use either a gill net or other entangling net in
14 coastal fishing waters for the purpose of catching or taking any saltwater finfish, shellfish, or
15 other marine animals.

16 (c) Additional Net Restrictions. – In addition to the prohibition set forth in subsection (b)
17 of this section, no other type of net containing more than 500 square feet of mesh area shall be
18 used in coastal fishing waters. Additionally, no more than two nets which shall not be connected
19 shall be used from any vessel, and no person not on a vessel shall use more than one net in coastal
20 fishing waters.

21 (d) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

22 (1) Coastal fishing waters. – Defined in G.S. 113-129(4).

23 (2) Entangling net. – A drift net, trammell net, stab net, or any other net which
24 captures saltwater finfish, shellfish, or other marine animals by causing all or
25 part of heads, fins, legs, or other body parts to become entangled or ensnared
26 in the meshes of the net. The term does not include a hand-thrown cast net.

27 (3) Gill net. – One or more walls of netting which captures saltwater finfish by
28 ensnaring or entangling them in the meshes of the net by the gills. The term
29 does not include a hand-thrown cast net.

30 (4) Mesh area. – With respect to a net, the total area of netting with the meshes
31 open to comprise the maximum square footage. The square footage shall be
32 calculated using standard mathematical formulas for geometric shapes. Seines
33 and other rectangular nets shall be calculated using the maximum length and
34 maximum width of netting. Trawls and other bag-type nets shall be calculated
35 as a cone using the maximum circumference of the net mouth to derive the
36 radius and the maximum length from the net mouth to the tail end of the net



