



AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

PREPARED BY:	Ed H. Parvin, Deputy Manager	DEPARTMENT:	Executive
MEETING:	Town Council 11/12/2025		
SUBJECT:	Amend Chapter 10 Harbor and Marina Regulations, Section 10-4 General Regulations to allow for (1) limited fishing at the Town Marina and (2) require accessibility to pump out facilities at marinas where live aboards are permitted on docked vessels. Applicant: Town of Carolina Beach		

BACKGROUND:

Staff has reviewed the General Regulations associated with the Town's Harbor and Marina and recommend two changes.

1. Fishing by Charter vessels at the Town Marina

Fishing has always been prohibited in the Town Municipal Marina to protect the public and limit liability to the Town. Live bait fishing has become more prevalent with marina Licensee's. Especially with larger vessels their ability to catch bait is hampered due to lack of maneuverability, so crews are reliant on access to smaller vessels and time outside of the offshore charter trips. The cost of running a profitable business and attracting customers to Carolina Beach is becoming harder. This can be alleviated with the ability to fish for bait from fixed facilities in the marina. Licensees have requested the ability to fish for bait in the marina. Staff feels that this allowance is most flexible through language in the Licensee Agreement, with a simple amendment to Town Code directing rules to the license agreement. The goal is to allow bait fishing only and continue the prohibition of fishing from the docks in the marina. The marina was solely designed for vessel traffic not for fishing, so specific rules have been developed to accommodate License holders. Allowing fishing in the marina attracts chairs, coolers, and equipment creating potential for damage and hazards to facilities and or vessels due to fishing line and tackle breakage, and congestion of the walkways.

2. Pump out facilities at marinas with live-aboard allowances.

Marinas meet the letter of the code by having a pump out that is working when the marina is inspected by Harbor Master but fail to meet the intent of the code for occupant use due to inaccessible. Some marinas do not have a designated slip for vessels to access the pump out. Some marinas have slips but are inaccessible due to slip being too small or too shallow for larger vessels in the marina to access.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Staff are requesting the Town Code be amended to accommodate the following changes to Section 10-4 General Regulations:

1. Further define fishing to include limited bait fishing allowances in the Town Marina
2. Ensure required pump out facilities are made available to all vessels at marinas that have allowance to live aboard the docked vessels.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Adopt Ordinance 25-1268 to amend Chapter 10 Harbor and Marina Regulations, Section 10-4 General Regulations to allow for (1) limited fishing at the Town Marina and (2) require accessibility to pump out facilities at marinas where live-aboards are permitted on docked vessels.

ATTACHMENT #1 Proposed Ordinance

ATTACHMENT #2 Recommended Language to be added to the license agreements

ATTACHMENT # 1 PROPOSED ORDINANCE

ATTACHMENT #2 Proposed language to be included in the License Agreements.

Bait Fishing shall be limited to

The Town will allow bait fishing in the Marina under the following provisions:

1. Fishing in the marina is limited to bait only;
2. Restricted to those Licensees who have a copy of their "Blanket For-Hire" license on file with the Town;
3. Limited to the licensee only or by their designated captain or mate on the vessels drug testing program. The captain shall keep the harbor master informed of the mates on the drug testing program. Fishing by "guests" will not be allowed;
4. Patrons of a COI For-Hire will be allowed to bait fish from 6am-8am prior to the scheduled trip in the vicinity of the head boat slip under the supervision of the head boat crew.
5. Bait fishing may be allowed by net or line from the Licensee's vessel, dock assigned to their vessel;
6. Nets or lines may not be thrown over boats at the day dock, or dinghy docks;
7. General clean-up of dock required.

Bait Pens will be allowed under the following provisions:

1. Bait pens and fish traps must be kept in the Licensee's slip;
2. Kept in an orderly manner; secured in a way to keep predators out;
3. Debris or growth shall not be visible on the top of the fish trap.
4. On a case-by-case basis and may be revoked at any time by the Harbor Master