

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ONSLOW

RESOLUTION 24-019
SUPPORT FOR A MORATORIUM
ON NEW SHELLFISH LEASES IN ONSLOW COUNTY

WHEREAS, members of the local Shoreline Protection Commission have advised the Onslow County Board of Commissioners of a relevant issue that has begun to impact many aspects of the County as well as impacting local aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, the Onslow County Board of Commissioners is concerned with the following:

- With moratoriums in place to the south and north of our counties; we are seeing an increase in movement of aquatic business activities moving into Pender and Onslow County, with no consideration being given to municipalities for their town limits and ordinances that govern business and development activities. This has an impact on Land Use Plans, enforcement, navigation in marsh areas, property values, noise impact on other species, and restricted public use of lease areas.
- Many of the lease requests are coming from businesses outside Pender and Onslow county due to moratoriums in their own respective counties. At this time there is no way to identify shellfish equipment after a major storm, etc. and therefore no way to identify parties responsible for cleaning up dislodged equipment.
- Consideration must be given to growing conflicts between these operations and local recreational and commercial activities and the potential for overpopulation ultimately leading to ecological and economic consequences.

WHEREAS, the Onslow County Board of Commissioners supports shellfish leases and is in favor of shellfish farming and the economic benefit it brings to North Carolina; but believes there should be limits, thus making it compatible with existing fishing practices, coastal, environmental, and economic needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Onslow County Board of Commissioners requests that a moratorium on new shellfish leases be put in place in our region, to allow us to better evaluate the current situation and take the necessary steps towards achieving a balance.

ADOPTED, this 16th day of September 2024.



Onslow County
Board of Commissioners

Handwritten signature of Tim Foster in black ink.

Tim Foster, Chairman

Attest:

Handwritten signature of Rosanna C. Outler in black ink.

Rosanna C. Outler,
Deputy Clerk to the Board