

ASSEMBLY TOURISM, GAMING AND THE ARTS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 155

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 20, 2023

The Assembly Tourism, Gaming and the Arts Committee reports favorably Assembly Joint Resolution No. 155.

This joint resolution would designate the first full week of June of each year as “New Jersey Fishing and Boating Week.”

Fishing and boating are cornerstones of the American recreational experience. In 2012, an estimated 47 million Americans participated in fishing and 46 million Americans participated in boating. In New Jersey, 766,000 anglers spent a total of 9.5 million days fishing in 2011. The State’s parks and natural areas, 127 miles of coastline, hundreds of miles of bayshore, and numerous inland lakes and tributaries provide countless fishing and boating opportunities. New Jersey also offers some of the best and most diverse fishing in the country, including saltwater fishing for striped bass and flounder and stream fishing for brook trout. The State hosts a variety of boating activities, such as sailing, cruising, dining and entertaining, nature observation, and water sports.

Recreational fishing and boating are excellent opportunities for families to spend time together, and for people to learn about and help conserve the natural environment. Fishing and boating are also believed by many to be significant stress-relieving activities. National Fishing and Boating Week, which often takes place at the beginning of June, highlights the importance of fishing and boating in enhancing people’s quality of life and preserving the country’s natural beauty. By designating New Jersey Fishing and Boating Week in June, it is hoped that this will encourage all people to participate in fishing and boating, and enjoy the natural beauty of the State in one of the best months to take it in.

This joint resolution would request the Governor to annually issue a proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of the State to observe “New Jersey Fishing and Boating Week” with appropriate activities and programs. It would also direct the Division of Fish and Wildlife to take appropriate measures each year to publicize “New Jersey Fishing and Boating Week,” and to

coordinate at least one of the State's free fishing days, selected pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1985, c.352 (C.23:3-1b), with that week.