

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 46

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2010

Sponsored by:

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to establish new artificial reefs for commercial fishing.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the Mid-Atlantic Fishery
2 Management Council to establish new artificial reefs for
3 commercial fishing.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Properly designed, constructed, and located artificial reefs
6 enhance the habitat and diversity of fishery resources, enhance both
7 recreational and commercial fishing opportunities, increase the
8 production of fishery products, increase the energy efficiency of
9 commercial and recreational fisheries, and contribute to tourism in
10 New Jersey's coastal economies and throughout the State; and
11 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey promotes and facilitates responsible and
12 effective efforts to establish and maintain artificial reefs in State
13 and federal waters to sustain both commercial and recreational
14 fishing; and
15 **WHEREAS**, The Division of Fish and Wildlife, in the New Jersey
16 Department of Environmental Protection, holds permits for 15
17 artificial reef sites, encompassing a total of 25 square miles of sea
18 floor; and
19 **WHEREAS**, Artificial reef sites are home to dozens of marine species,
20 with reefs strategically located along the New Jersey coast so that
21 one site is within easy boat range of 12 State ocean inlets; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Artificial reefs are constructed by intentionally placing
23 dense materials, such as old ships and barges, concrete and steel
24 demolition debris and dredge rock on the sea floor within
25 designated reef sites; and
26 **WHEREAS**, The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and
27 Management Act of 1976, as amended, provides the United States
28 with exclusive management authority over fisheries, except for
29 highly migratory species of tuna, within a fishery conservation zone
30 of three to 200 miles offshore; and
31 **WHEREAS**, The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council is one of
32 eight regional fishery management councils established to serve as
33 planning units to carry out provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens
34 Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, as amended,
35 and consists of representatives from Delaware, Maryland, New
36 Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia; and
37 **WHEREAS**, All residents of the State, whether commercial or
38 recreational anglers, seafood consumers, or aqua tourists, should be
39 able to enjoy New Jersey's rich coastal and offshore waters, and
40 amicably coexist and benefit from the numerous artificial reef sites;
41 and
42 **WHEREAS**, New artificial reefs, exclusively constructed for
43 commercial fishing, would better provide both commercial and
44 recreational anglers, as well as divers and aqua tourists, more
45 opportunities to benefit from the State's several different artificial
46 reef sites; and
47 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper and in the public interest
48 for this House to urge the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management

1 Council to establish new artificial reefs for commercial fishing, and
2 to consider using materials from dredging the Delaware River and
3 New York-New Jersey Harbor for the construction of the new reefs;
4 now, therefore,

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6 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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8 1. This House urges the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management
9 Council to establish new artificial reefs for commercial fishing, and
10 to consider using materials from dredging the Delaware River and
11 New York-New Jersey Harbor for the construction of the new reefs.

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13 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
14 President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary of the Senate,
15 shall be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United
16 States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate,
17 the Speaker and Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States
18 House of Representatives, every member of the United States
19 Congress elected from the State of New Jersey, the Administrator of
20 the National Marine Fisheries Service, in the National Oceanic and
21 Atmospheric Administration in the United States Department of
22 Commerce, the Chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management
23 Council, the appointed and designated members of the Mid-Atlantic
24 Fishery Management Council from the State of New Jersey, and the
25 Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental
26 Protection.

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STATEMENT

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31 This resolution urges the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management
32 Council to establish new artificial reefs for commercial fishing, and
33 to consider using materials from dredging the Delaware River and
34 New York-New Jersey Harbor for the construction of the new reefs.

35 The establishment of new artificial reefs, exclusively for
36 commercial fishing, would provide commercial anglers more
37 opportunities to benefit from the artificial reef sites, and would
38 provide recreational anglers with more opportunities at the State's
39 existing artificial reef sites.

40 Currently, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, in the Department
41 of Environmental Protection, holds permits for 15 artificial reef
42 sites. These reef sites are home to dozens of marine species, with
43 reefs strategically located along the New Jersey coast so that one
44 site is within easy boat range of 12 State ocean inlets. Artificial
45 reefs are constructed by intentionally placing dense materials, such
46 as old ships and barges, concrete and steel demolition debris and
47 dredge rock on the sea floor within designated reef sites.