

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 109

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 11, 2015

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates third weekend in October each year as “Shuck, Sip, and Slurp Weekend” to promote NJ oysters, wine, and beer.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the third weekend in October of  
2       each year as the “Shuck, Sip, and Slurp Weekend” for the  
3       promotion of New Jersey oysters, wine and beer.  
4

5   **WHEREAS**, Demand for oysters is growing, driven by increased  
6       popularity at raw bars and seafood restaurants, and there is a  
7       renewed interest in the farming and culture of oysters in the State of  
8       New Jersey; and

9   **WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s coastal waters are particularly suited to  
10      aquaculture, including the production of oysters, and there is a  
11      strong local and regional demand for locally grown oysters; and

12   **WHEREAS**, The growth of oyster production in New Jersey benefits  
13      local small businesses, creates jobs and adds value to the State  
14      economy, and promotes the development of sustainable working  
15      waterfronts; and

16   **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at  
17      Rutgers University has pioneered cutting-edge research in oyster  
18      production, including sustainable farming techniques and varieties  
19      of oyster seed now in high demand nationally and internationally;  
20      and

21   **WHEREAS**, Oyster production involves no fertilizers, feeds, or other  
22      chemicals, and has been found to be environmentally beneficial to  
23      coastal waters by promoting biodiversity, denitrification, and clean  
24      water; and

25   **WHEREAS**, Oysters have a flavor unique to the waters they are grown  
26      in, and New Jersey oysters are unique local products with appeal to  
27      restaurants and raw bars; and

28   **WHEREAS**, Nationally, demand for craft beers has grown rapidly in  
29      recent years, with brewers realizing nationwide in 2014 a 22%  
30      increase in retail dollar value of craft beers, according to the  
31      Brewers Association, the national trade association representing  
32      small and independent American craft brewers, and New Jersey  
33      has seen the number of local breweries in the State grow to close  
34      to 30; and

35   **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has witnessed an incredible growth in  
36      wineries, from nine in the year 2000 to over fifty today, with a  
37      total economic impact of \$231 million, according to a report  
38      commissioned by the Garden State Wine Growers Association in  
39      2011; and

40   **WHEREAS**, State oysters, wine, and beer represent food and  
41      agricultural products unique to New Jersey and provide a major  
42      economic benefit to the State economy; and

43   **WHEREAS**, Oysters are often paired with wine or beer, and there is a  
44      growing interest in local sources for these products; and

45   **WHEREAS**, Establishing an annual “Shuck, Sip, and Slurp Weekend”  
46      for the promotion of New Jersey oysters, wine, and beer would  
47      highlight local New Jersey food and agricultural products and  
48      promote economic growth in these areas; and

