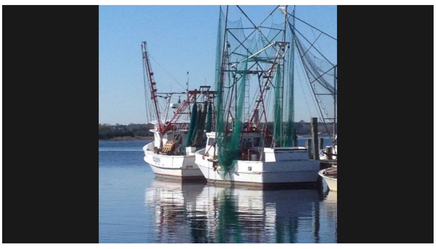
Carteret County NEWS-TIMES

Search...

Controversial shrimp trawl Ban shelved ahead of key study release

KATHLEEN HOPEWELL NEWS-TIMES Jun 26, 2025 Updated Jun 26, 2025 0



BEAUFORT — By refusing to take up House Bill 442 on June 25, N.C. House Republicans effectively killed both H.B 441 and 442 in this session. Rep. Ed Goodwin's (R-Chowan) office confirmed that both bills are dead, "as one was contingent upon the other" thereby preventing the ban on in-shore shrimp trawling and the related buyout of shrimpers for this session.

The change followed a June 24 protest at the General Assembly, by eastern North Carolinians who trawl for shrimp or support in-shore shrimp trawling.

Rep. Goodwin's office added, "I would not be surprised if the Senate tried to sneak in the Conference report. But with the public outrage over this, I don't really see that happening."

Just because the bills are dead doesn't mean the ideas are, too. Rep. Goodwin's office affirmed he "is totally against the trawling ban and plans to speak against it in the House caucus and stop it from getting to the House floor," should the ban arise again in other pieces of legislation.

According to Rep. Goodwin's office, he was "the leader in the House to kill the shrimp trawling ban the Senate added to his bill, as he was a primary sponsor for both [bills]."

H.B. 442 originally expanded Flounder and Red Snapper recreational fishing, until the Senate added a provision to ban shrimp trawling in the state's estuaries and waters within a half mile of shore, and passed the bill, 41-4, on June 17.

H.B. 441 originally adopted the loggerhead sea turtle as North Carolina's official saltwater reptile, but was fundamentally altered in the Senate to establish a Shrimp Trawl Transition Program, compensating shrimpers for the trawling that they'd be banned from doing. It passed the Senate 43-2 in its final reading on Tuesday evening.

With these bills being rushed through by the Senate, many have pointed to a study by the North Carolina Collaboratory, N.C.'s research funding agency that informs policymaking statewide, on N.C.'s fisheries and coastal habitats to recommend policies that would improve state fishery governance. The study is slated to be presented to the General Assembly by June 30, leading to presumptions that its findings would shed light on this issue and, thus, created the urgency to pass the bills prior to its presentation.

While shrimp are among the 13 regulated marine species mandated by Senate Bill 296 to be included in the study, UNC Institute of Marine Sciences Director and the study's lead researcher, Joel Fodrie, said in a February 2024 webinar on the study, however, that he and the nine other scientists on the study have "not felt constrained to focus only on those 13 species, we dealt with a broader scope in some cases."

Fodrie shared with the *Carteret News-Times* the study is "broad" and "more holistic," assessing, "fish biology, fish ecology, estuarine ecology, governance and fisheries management," but it "very minimally intersects" with matters relevant to current shrimp trawling concerns.

The study, as a whole, seeks to compare N.C.'s management of those 13 species to other states' management, and look at factors, whether environmental or man-made, that impact fisheries and fisheries habitats, like storm frequency and intensity, commercial and recreational fishing, population and water temperatures.

"In the case of shrimp trawling, I have no confidence about the effects of banning it or keeping it," Fodrie said. He continued, "I simply don't know how the system would respond to banning shrimp trawling," dispelling narratives that the N.C. Collaboratory study would suffice as the authoritative determinant of current policy directives on shrimp trawling.

Tags: Bycatch | Shrimp Fishery | Trawling | Fishing | Fisheries Science | Marine Biology | Natural Environment | Fish | Fishing Industry | Fish And Humans | Fishery | Shrimp | United States Senate | Ecology | United States House Of Representatives | Fisheries Management | Earth Sciences | Oceanography | Marine Coastal Ecosystem

PREV NEXT

Recommended for you

NEWS
Division of Marine Fisheries to hold charter/for-hire meetings

NATIONAL
Congressional Perks: Congress spends on pricey airfare, lodging and private jets

REGIONAL
Abigail Spanberger elected Virginia governor in a historic first that boosts Democrats ahead of 2026

REGIONAL
Stein calls on lawmakers to fund the Medicaid rebase

(0) Comments

Welcome to the discussion.

As a privately owned web site, we reserve the right to edit or remove comments that contain spam, advertising, vulgarity, threats of violence, racism, anti-Semitism, or personal/abusive/condescending attacks on other users or goading them. The same applies to trolling, the use of multiple aliases, or just generally being a jerk. Enforcement of this policy is at the sole discretion of the site administrators and repeat offenders may be blocked or permanently banned without warning.

Post a comment | Watch this discussion.

Around The Web

Discover The Cost of a 1-day Walk-in Shower Upgrade in Greenville
HomeBuddy

Cardiologists: 1/2 Cup Before Bed Burns Belly Fat Like Crazy, Try This Recipe!
Healthier Living

Your Pet Wants Breakfast at 6 Am - Do You?
Food52

The Perfect Christmas Gift: These Animal Socks Are a Hit!
Libisyi

This 250th Anniversary Hat is Being Snapped Up in North Carolina
Peoasis

If You Have More Than $1,000 in Your Checking Account, Make These 6 Moves ASAP
The Penny Hoarder

This Tiny Hearing Aid is Changing Lives, and It's Under $99
Oricle Hearing

Best Gifts for People Who Love Life
Peoasis

A New $59 Smartwatch That Monitors Blood Sugar Painlessly in Just a Few Seconds
Peoasis

Latest e-Edition

News Times
To view our latest e-Edition click the image on the left.

JUST CREMATIONS
252-240-5580 • JustCremations.net
Simple & affordable cremations starting at
$995
Serving all of Carteret County

Most Popular

Articles

1. 18 arrested in Carteret "Operation Find Out" drug crackdown
2. Timeline details six-hour standoff before fatal shooting in Stacy
3. Female runner collapses, dies during Emerald Isle race
4. Patricia Lopedote, 72; no service
5. Croatan captures conference championship
6. Alpaca farm to open to public
7. Ellingsworth transfers to Arkansas State
8. Zeb Hough named new executive director of Beaufort Housing Authority
9. Carteret County Veterans Day Parade takes place 50 years after conflict ended in Vietnam
10. CCC breaks ground for new workforce center

Paper Boys Podcast

00:00 00:00

(Click to listen) Alexis Kay

(Click to listen) Jackson Sproul

(Click to listen) Lillie Seymour

(Click to listen) Outer Banks ADs

EXPLORE MORE EPISODES

Contact Information
carolinacoastonline.com
5039 Executive DriveSuite 300
Morehead City, NC 28557
Phone: 252-726-7081
Email: nikki@thenewstimes.com

© Copyright 2025 Carolina Coast Online 5039 Executive DriveSuite 300, Morehead City, NC | Privacy Policy

Powered by BLOX Content Management System from BLOX Digital.