



June 20, 2025

Representative Destin Hall
Speaker of the House of Representatives
16 West Jones Street, Room 2304
Raleigh, NC 27601

Re: House Bill 442; Flounder/Red Snapper Seasons & Shrimp Trawl

Position: Support

Dear Speaker Hall and Members of the North Carolina House of Representatives,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, I write to express our support of House Bill 442. House Bill 442 would prohibit the take of shrimp using a trawl net in any coastal fishing waters other than areas of the Atlantic Ocean located more than one-half mile from the shoreline, among other provisions.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

Studies have shown that bycatch of juvenile fish in shrimp trawls, many of which are important to recreational and commercial fisheries, can be substantial¹². Under current law, North Carolina stands alone among Southeastern states in allowing industrial shrimp trawling in its sounds and estuaries. North Carolina's inshore waters are among the most diverse and productive marine environments in North America and provide critical nursery habitat for some of the most popular fishes pursued by both commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. Eliminating estuarine

¹ [B.W. Stender and C. A. Barans \(1994\). Comparison of the Catch from Tongue and Two-Seam Shrimp Nets Off South Carolina. North American Journal of Fisheries Management, 14: 178-195.](#)

² [S. Diamond \(2014\). Estimation of bycatch in shrimp trawl fisheries: a comparison of estimation methods using field data and simulated data. SEDAR-PW6-RD54.](#)

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bycatch of juvenile fish in shrimp trawls could substantially benefit the rebuilding efforts of fish stocks like southern flounder.

Furthermore, North Carolina sports nearly 1.4 million paid fishing license holders that collectively generate over \$40 million in fishing license sales and matching federal funds through the “user pays – public benefits” structure of the American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF).³ Through careful management of marine resources that depend on North Carolina’s sounds and estuaries, these commonly sought after fishes and the habitat they thrive in will be conserved for future generations to enjoy, who will ultimately contribute to the ASCF which is essential to maintaining our sporting conservation legacy for generations to come.

In closing, the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation offers its full support of House Bill 442. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments, and please let us know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Conner Barker".

Conner Barker
Senior Coordinator, Southeastern States
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³ *Funding sources. Partner with a Payer. (2025b, May 15).* <https://partnerwithapayer.org/funding-sources/>