

RESOLUTION 09-05

TO PETITION THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PETITION THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO SUPPORT THE DESIGNATION OF THE COASTAL WATERS IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY AS A NO DISCHARGE ZONE

WHEREAS, Brunswick County, more specifically the Town of Holden Beach, depends upon the recreational use of the surrounding coastal waters to attract tourist and derive economic benefit; and

WHEREAS, commercial and recreational boating play an important role in the coastal economy and quality of life of its residents and visitors, but the discharge of sewage from these boats can contribute to the degradation of the coastal marine environment by introducing disease-causing microorganisms such as bacteria, protozoa, and viruses; and

WHEREAS, the health and cleanliness of our waterways has a direct link to the health of the marine fishing and boating industry; and

WHEREAS, water quality within the coastal waters has been declining in recent years resulting in recreational uses advisories and shellfish harvesting closures; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act (CWA) was passed in 1972 to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of our Nation's waters; and Section 312 of the CWA entitled "Marine Sanitation Devices" (MSD), gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and States the authority to designate no-discharge zones (NDZs) prohibiting the discharge of sewage (whether treated or untreated) from all vessels while in the NDZ, thereby affording states an additional tool to address water quality issues associated with sewer discharge; and

WHEREAS, in order for the EPA to become involved, a state has to formally request that a specific portion of a waterbody (or all of its waterbodies) be designated a NDZ; and

WHEREAS, this resolution supports the designation of a NDZ within the coastal waters in Brunswick County, which includes the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, the Cape Fear River, the Northeast Cape Fear River, and all tidal creeks that drain into it, as well as the designated United States Territorial Waters extending to a point three nautical miles off the shoreline measured from the mean low tide and designated line of demarcation at all inlets off Brunswick County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Holden Beach Board of Commissioners do hereby petition the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources to request establishment of a No Discharge Zone in the Coastal waters of Brunswick County.

ADOPTED this 10th day of March, 2009.

J. Alan Holden, Mayor

SEAL

ATTEST: _____

Heather Finnell, Town Clerk

A resolution petitioning for no discharge zones in coastal waters of the county