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Subject: The Study - NC Sound Economy

Marine Fisheries Commissioners,

Please find attached a link to HB 867—a comprehensive, bi-partisan bill to update & improve the FRA of 1997. Further, see the economic study that underpins the rationale behind the bill. Also, please see the news release of the NC Chamber of Commerce supporting the bill & the ideas behind the bill. I'm glad to answer any questions you may have concerning this information. We thought it would be good for you to have this information before your meeting next week. Thanks and look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,
David Knight
NC Wildlife Federation

<http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2017/Bills/House/PDF/H867v1.pdf>

http://www.ncsoundeconomy.com/the_study

The Study

NC Sound Economy commissioned a study to examine a conservation oriented fishery management strategy for North Carolina. The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), in collaboration with an economist from University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), finds the state can take a range of steps to strengthen coastal livelihoods, raise incomes and make coastal communities more resilient.

The state is experiencing tremendous economic loss because of short-term planning. Fish populations are in decline, with 17 species considered depleted or of concern. This groundbreaking study provides an in-depth examination of benefits to our fishing economy if fish populations are able to recover and grow.

The state utilizes harvest data collected from fish dealers, anglers, and scientists to estimate the size of an individual fish stock and set harvest goals. The research team selected eight species from the 17 that are listed as depleted or of concern. They examined multiple management scenarios for each species, which would lead to long-term resource and economic growth.

The researchers ran multiple management scenarios on each species. There is no one-size-fits-all strategy to conserve and grow fish stocks in order to increase economic benefits. Some of the analyses show deficits in the data that underlies the stock assessment. In those cases, bycatch in another fishery or some other cause may need to be addressed before benefits can be realized. Similarly, some scenarios show that cuts need to be made in current harvest levels. When cuts are made in the short term, the stock recovers to a higher level allowing more harvest and driving more economic benefits.

If all eight of these species are managed for conservation the state could gain a 30-year economic benefit of: \$829.7 million dollars; \$4.2 billion in total sales; 1,493 additional jobs; and \$1.6 billion in labor income. This is in addition to the current level of fisheries related economic benefits.

It is clear the state has an incredible opportunity to restore its status as a premier fishing destination. In addition to benefits to the recreational fishing economy, the struggling commercial sector can be a premier local and sustainable seafood producer.

North Carolina Chamber Joins State Initiative to Improve Coastal Fishing Economies

The NC Chamber and NC Sound Economy coalition support House Bill 867 to maximize job potential and benefits of coastal economic resources

RALEIGH, N.C. – The North Carolina Chamber, a nonpartisan business advocacy organization, has joined the NC Sound Economy initiative to strengthen coastal livelihoods, raise incomes and make coastal communities more resilient. The effort will support solutions that maximize economic benefits in many of our state's non-urban coastal communities.

Along with NC Sound Economy, the North Carolina Chamber supports the solutions contained in House Bill 867, the Coastal Fisheries Conservation and Economic Development Act. The legislation aims to update fisheries management laws, streamline regulatory decision making, and grow the entire state's fishing economy.

"Improving our coastal fishing economies will have positive impacts across our whole state," said Lew Ebert, president and CEO of the North Carolina Chamber. "As the state's largest business advocacy organization, our priority is to proactively drive positive change to ensure that North Carolina is a leading place in the world to do business. House Bill 867 and the research presented by NC Sound Economy clearly demonstrate the opportunity that our state has, today, to improve our coastal fishing economies for future generations."

This year, [NC Sound Economy commissioned a study](#) to examine various fisheries management strategies for North Carolina. The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), in collaboration with an economist from the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), finds that if House Bill 867 is passed, our state's fishing economy stands to gain:

- an additional \$829.7 million dollars,
- \$4.2 billion in total sales,
- 1,493 additional jobs, and
- \$1.6 billion in labor income.

In addition to benefits to the recreational fishing economy, the struggling commercial sector can be a premier local and sustainable seafood producer for future generations.

About NC Sound Economy: NC Sound Economy is a nonprofit organization made up of an expanding coalition of fishermen, business leaders and concerned citizens who seek to end the unproductive fights over a shrinking publicly owned economic resource. For more information visit www.ncsoundeconomy.com.

About the North Carolina Chamber: The North Carolina Chamber is a nonpartisan business advocacy organization that works in the legislative, regulatory and political arenas to proactively drive positive change to ensure that North Carolina is a leading place in the world to do business. Strengthening the state's ability to attract, retain and grow jobs is the Chamber's highest priority. Central to that effort are four "Pillars of a Secure Future" for North Carolina which include Education and Talent Supply, Business Climate, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Infrastructure and Growth Leadership. For more information, visit www.ncchamber.net.