

**Board of County Commissioners**  
Brad George – Chair  
Jacqueline A. (Jackie) Newton – Vice Chair  
W. Randy Burton  
Archibald (Fred) McCoy  
Jerry Groves



**County Manager**  
Michael Silverman  
**Assistant County  
Manager** Allen Vann  
**County Attorney**  
Carl W. (Trey) Thurman

## **Resolution to Request a Moratorium on Shellfish Leases**

**Whereas**, the Topsail Shoreline Protection Commission has petitioned the Board of each of its respective Town and Counties to considered requesting a moratorium on new shellfish leases in Pender and Onslow waters; and

**Whereas**, there are multiple reasons for the request to establish a moratorium on shellfish leases; and

**Whereas**, the density of shellfish leased areas has continued to increase, which has an impact on recreational fishing, the tourism impact on use of small vessels, and is impacting the beauty of a marsh area that did not have the plastic poles and other equipment marking shellfish areas; and

**Whereas**, with moratoriums in our neighboring counties; we are seeing an increased movement of aquatic business activities into Pender and Onslow Counties; and

**Whereas**, at this time there is no way to identify shellfish equipment after a major storm; and

**Whereas**, an increase in shellfish leases can impact available food for oysters and other aquatic life; and

**Whereas**, these shellfish leases have an impact on Land Use Plans, enforcement, navigation in marsh areas, property values, noise impact on other species, and restricted public use of lease areas; and

**Whereas**, the spaces utilized by shellfish leases impact tourism and reduces spaces being used by tourism for water activities; and

**Whereas**, many of the lease requests are coming from businesses outside Pender and Onslow Counties due to moratoriums in their respective counties; and

**Whereas**, the State of North Carolina is in favor of shellfish leases, and we are also in favor of shellfish farming; however, there should be limits on water column shellfish leases, density, disease control considerations, and impact considerations on other businesses use of same water area.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Pender County,**

**North Carolina, as follows:**

1. The Pender County Board of Commissioners approve the request for a moratorium on new shellfish leases, in particular column shellfish leases, and if approved authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary documents on behalf of the County.

I certify as follows: that the foregoing resolution was properly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Pender County, North Carolina; that this meeting was properly called and held on October 7, 2024; that a quorum was present and acting throughout this meeting; and that this resolution has not been modified or amended, and remains in full effect as of today.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad George, Chair  
Pender County Board of Commissioners

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ATTEST  
Michael Silverman, Clerk to the Board