

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: H.B. 541 (House Finance Committee Substitute)

SHORT TITLE: Buoy Fishing/Special Fishing Device

SPONSOR(S): Rep. Frank Mitchell

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>	<u>FY 2003-04</u>
REVENUES					
Wildlife Resource					
Fund	\$6,863	\$9,150	\$9,150	\$9,150	\$9,150
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Wildlife Resource Commission.					
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1999.					

BILL SUMMARY: The bill defines trotlines, buoy sets, and set hooks as “special devices.” Individuals who use these types of fishing devices must secure a “special device” license. The legislation also that a licensed individual fishing with a set hook in inland public water must be within 100 yards of the set hook at all times. The proposal clarifies that buoy sets, trotlines, gill nets, fish traps, and any other special device designated by the Wildlife Resource Commission (Wildlife) must be marked with yellow buoys made of solid foam or other solid buoyant material no less than five inches square. Double buoys must be used to mark each end of anchored, fixed, or drift gill nets and trotlines. The buoys must be marked with the owner’s name, address, and special device fishing license number. The vessel registration number may be used in place of the license number. The information must either be engraved into the buoys or engraved in metal or plastic tags that are attached to the buoys. Finally, the bill defines a buoy set, a set hook, and a trotline.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: The primary fiscal impact is a result of the license requirements. Under the bill, individuals who use trotlines, buoy sets, set hooks, gill nets, fish traps, and other devices designated by Wildlife must have a special device license. In the past a license has been required for many of these devices. An annual, special device license for personal use costs \$10.00. An annual commercial license for special devices costs \$100.00. In FY 98 Wildlife sold less than 3,000 special device fishing licenses. They estimate that approximately 500 additional licenses will be issued as a result of the bill. Of these they believe

475 will be issued for personal use, while 25 will be used for commercial use. Assuming the license cost remains \$10.00 and \$100.00 the projected revenue is listed below.

	Cost	Number	Total Revenue
Individual Licenses	\$10	475	\$4,750
Commercial License	\$100	25	\$2,500
TOTAL		500	\$ 7,250

Wildlife reports that in the past approximately 10% of special device licenses are sold to non-residents. The fee for a non-resident individual license is \$50.00. The commercial license fee for both residents and non-residents is \$100.00. Assuming that 10% of licensees in each category are non-residents, the estimated revenue increase is as follows:

	# Resident	Cost	Revenue	# Non-Resident	Cost	Revenue	Total Revenue
Individual Licenses	428	\$10	\$4,275	48	\$50	\$2,375	\$6,650
Commercial License	23	\$100	\$2,250	3	\$100	\$250	\$2,500
TOTAL	450		\$ 6,525	50		\$ 2,625	\$ 9,150

No significant growth is expected in the number of licenses in the next few years. The FY 1999-00 estimate is adjusted to account for the October 1 effective date.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: none

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION 733-4910

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DATE: Tuesday, June 08, 1999



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