

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

SESSION LAW 2023-26  
HOUSE BILL 544

AN ACT TO MAKE IT UNLAWFUL TO TAKE SHARKS FROM THE SHORELINE AS PART OF A RECREATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT DURING TOURIST SEASON IN CERTAIN SOUTHEASTERN WATERS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article 15 of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 113-192. Moratorium on certain shark fishing tournaments during tourist season.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law or proclamation issued by the Marine Fisheries Commission, between May 1 and October 31 of each year, it is unlawful to take sharks as part of a recreational fishing tournament where the person landing the shark is on the shore or on a structure attached to the shore of Carolina Beach, Caswell Beach, Holden Beach, Kure Beach, Oak Island, Ocean Isle Beach, Sunset Beach, or Bald Head Island."

**SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

s/ Vickie Sawyer  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

s/ Howard Penny, Jr.  
Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

s/ Roy Cooper  
Governor

Approved 12:32 p.m. this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2023

