

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 112**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED MARCH 10, 1997

**By Senator CAFIERO**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** affirming the equal rights to fish in the State  
2 for residents, commercial and recreational fishermen, and tourists and the  
3 interest of the State in managing marine resources in the State and  
4 protecting them from misuse and depletion.

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6 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is rich in marine resources, including beaches, and  
7 fresh and salt water areas populated with wildlife and sea life; and

8 **WHEREAS**, These marine resources are a vital component of the State  
9 economy, contributing to the quality of life in the State as a source of  
10 enjoyment for residents, recreational fishermen and tourists, and a source  
11 of profit for commercial fishermen; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The recreational and commercial fishing industries contribute  
13 almost \$1.5 billion a year to the State economy and employ more than  
14 50,000 full and part time workers; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Although New Jersey's marine resources are renewable  
16 resources, that with the proper management and protection, can be  
17 enjoyed indefinitely, they are nonetheless threatened by population growth  
18 and the increased demand for seafood and the growth in the sport and  
19 business of fishing; and

20 **WHEREAS**, The Department of Environmental Protection has been statutorily  
21 charged with the responsibility for protecting the State's natural resources,  
22 fish, game and wildlife and restricts the harvesting of these resources both  
23 by regulating the method by which the resource is taken and the amount of  
24 the resource harvested; and

25 **WHEREAS**, It is equally in the interest of the State, its residents, its commercial  
26 fishermen, its recreational fishermen, and its tourists, whether they fish or  
27 not, to have access to these resources and to have them properly managed  
28 and protected for future use; now, therefore,

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30 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General*  
31 *Assembly concurring):*

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33 1. The Legislature affirms the equal rights of the residents, commercial  
34 fishermen, recreational fishermen, and tourists in the State to have access to  
35 and enjoy the marine resources of the State at the same time that the State has

1 an interest in managing these resources and protecting them from misuse and  
2 depletion.

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4 2. The Legislature urges the Department of Environmental Protection to  
5 reaffirm its role in balancing the management and protection of marine  
6 resources with the equal access and enjoyment of the resources.

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8 3. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of  
9 the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, and signed by the Speaker  
10 of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be  
11 transmitted to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection.

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STATEMENT

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16 This concurrent resolution affirms the equal rights of the residents,  
17 commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, and tourists in the State to have  
18 access to and enjoy the marine resources of the State and the State's interest  
19 in managing these resources and protecting them from misuse and depletion,  
20 and urges the Department of Environmental Protection to reaffirm its role in  
21 affirming the balance between the two.

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26 Affirms the equal fishing rights of residents, commercial and recreational  
27 fishermen, and tourists and the State interest in managing marine resources.