

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 1877

Short Title: Shellfish Restoration Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Harrison, Underhill (Primary Sponsors); Faison, Glazier, Justice, and Wainwright.

Referred to: Appropriations.

April 26, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE UNC INSTITUTE OF
2 MARINE SCIENCES' SHELLFISH RESTORATION PROJECT.
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4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
6 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of three hundred thousand
7 dollars (\$300,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of three hundred thousand
8 dollars (\$300,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to be allocated to the University of
9 North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Institute of Marine Sciences in Morehead City to fund a
10 shellfish restoration project to counteract the cownose ray explosion, which feed on
11 shellfish in North Carolina. These funds may be used to support the following:

- 12 (1) Restoration of the North Carolina bay scallop, the fishery for which
13 has been closed for three years.
14 (2) Conduct a pilot project to protect oyster sanctuaries from cownose ray
15 and skate predation to help restore native oysters, the reef habitat they
16 create, and their water-quality benefits.
17 (3) Evaluate and combat the damage done by cownose rays and skates to
18 seagrass nursery habitat as they forage for clams.

19 **SECTION 2.** The Institute of Marine Sciences shall make an annual report
20 by December 1 to the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture on the
21 use of these funds.

22 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.