North Myrtle Beach Weighs Surf Fishing Rules

North Myrtle Beach, SC – During an August 20 workshop, the North Myrtle Beach City Council considered wording for a potential amendment to Chapter 5 “BEACHES AND WATERWAYS” of the City Code.

The proposed amendment is in response to an increased number of complaints from beach-goers about surf fishing. Thus far, the proposed amendment reads as follows:

Sec. 5-10 Regulations on recreational fishing from pier to shore:

a) Any person who surf fishes must obtain a valid Surf Fishing License in accordance with South Carolina State Law. City jurisdiction extends to one (1) mile in the Atlantic Ocean and includes all beaches, swashes, and piers.

b) It shall be unlawful for any person to bait, fish for catch, or otherwise attract sharks in the area within one mile of the public beach, nor shall any person in any manner chum for any marine life. All fishermen shall release at time of recognition any and all fish or other similar type animals that may pose any danger to any beach goers, sunbathers, swimmers or any other person where the fish or animal is caught.

c) No person may surf fish, surf cast or practice surf fishing or surf casting on the city’s public beaches between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from the Friday of Memorial Day weekend to the Monday of Labor Day weekend, both days inclusive.

d) All debris, bait, fish line, hooks, and other fishing equipment or tackle must be removed from the beach after fishing has been conducted.

Toward the end of the surf fishing discussion, Mayor Marilyn Hatley stated that the City was not in a rush to pass an amendment.

“We do have a problem along the beach,” Mayor Hatley said, “but we are not in a hurry to pass an amendment. Our primary tourist season has come to an end, and we have the offseason during which to consider this carefully and come up with a workable solution.”

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