

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

**H.B. 614**  
**Apr 5, 2017**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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**HOUSE BILL DRH40368-MH-57 (02/17)**

Short Title: Scientific Wildlife Management Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Malone, Adams, and B. Turner (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CONFIRM THAT NORTH CAROLINA CITIZENS HAVE A  
3 FUNDAMENTAL PRIVILEGE TO HUNT AND FISH THE MARINE, ESTUARINE,  
4 AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES OF THE STATE.  
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:  
6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 113-131 reads as rewritten:  
7 "**§ 113-131. Resources belong to public; stewardship of conservation agencies; grant and**  
8 **delegation of powers; injunctive relief.**  
9 (a) The marine and estuarine and wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of  
10 the State as a whole. The Department and the Wildlife Resources Commission are charged with  
11 stewardship of these resources.  
12 (a1) The Department, the Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Wildlife Resources  
13 Commission shall promote conservation and scientific management of marine, estuarine, and  
14 wildlife resources. The people of the State shall have the fundamental privilege to hunt, trap,  
15 fish, and harvest marine, estuarine, and wildlife resources subject only to the acts of the  
16 General Assembly and regulations adopted by the Department, the Marine Fisheries  
17 Commission, and the Wildlife Resources Commission to promote conservation and  
18 management of these resources and preserve the ability of the people of the State to hunt and  
19 fish. Public hunting and fishing shall be a preferred means of managing and controlling marine,  
20 estuarine, and wildlife resources, provided that this section shall not be construed to modify or  
21 repeal any provision of law relating to trespass or property rights.  
22 ...."  
23 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 153A-129(b), as enacted by Section 5(b) of S.L. 2015-144, and  
24 G.S. 103-2 are repealed.  
25 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2017.

