

PHIL LAW

1.) Although inlets are located in state waters, the marking of those inlets for navigational purposes is done by the Coast Guard, and the maintenance by the Corps of Engineers through dredging. Are you aware of the issues of dredging and the importance of funding to assure that inlets can provide safe passage for recreational and commercial fishermen and charter and headboat operations?

I have followed the need for increased dredging down around the state port from Beaufort county folks involved with Potash in the past. We need to build the jetties and provide a regularly scheduled dredger.

2.) One issue that is shared by state and federal fisheries management is that of gamefish designation. Do you know what happens when a fish species is declared a gamefish? What do you think about it?

When it is declared a gamefish additional federal regulation become factors. Generally speaking, increased regulation is not helpful in a constitutional republic where the first role of government is to protect the rights of the citizens.

3.) What do you think about banning commercial gear, such as nets or trawls?

I do not favor further restrictions on honest citizens trying to make a legal living.

4.) Do you have a position on offshore drilling for oil and/or natural gas? What about seismic testing?

I think seismic testing is wise as we prepare to enter the eleven-year solar minimum cycle and accelerated environmental changes are likely. I am not a big fan of offshore drilling from an economic perspective.

5.) What do you think of windfarms in the ocean off our coast?

I do not favor this idea.

6.) Most everyone understands that we live in a globally economy and seafood is certainly no exception. The question has always been, do we have fair trade? We compete with many countries that have fisheries for competing products but without the same regard for the environment as we do. In addition, some countries "dump" their products into the United States resulting in unfair competition. Can you address these issues?

I could write a complete novel on this subject but I don't think you want to read chapters and chapters about artificial money creation and interest rate tampering outside free market forces. Do we have fair trade? No. Do we want to protect our industries with tariffs? If so, we must continue to strengthen our military because as the old adage goes "When goods and services do not cross borders freely -- then armies do."

7.) Seafood is a perishable product and so once brought to the dock, processing is critical. In that regard, finding labor has been an ongoing problem with our seafood packers and processors. For years, many seafood businesses have relied on the H-2B program through the US Department of Labor to hire nonimmigrants to do temporary work. What is your opinion of this program?

Labor is a critical component of any successful business. When that business provides a product necessary for survival (ie. food) then we do what we need to make sure operations continue unhampered.

8.) Finally, what is your opinion about the importance of commercial fishing in eastern North Carolina in general and specifically the Third Congressional District?

It is a critical component of our economy and our caloric intake. It must be supported at all cost.