

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Resolution 2025-0230

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Gay

Date of Introduction: March 25, 2025

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, R

Date of Analysis: March 21, 2025

Type of Action: Expression of opposition

Bill Summary: This bill expresses the City Council's opposition to opening any portion of Pumpkin Hill Creek to allow recreational and commercial shrimp harvesting. Additionally, the bill strongly encourages representatives of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to attend the April 10, 2025, meeting of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission (JWC) to provide JWC with the opportunity to gain more information and provide public input regarding impacts of the FWC's recommendation to allow recreational and commercial shrimp harvesting.

The bill also directs the Chief of Legislative Services Division to forward a copy of the resolution to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission upon its adoption. The resolution requests an emergency passage upon introduction according to Council Rule 4.901 to provide ample notice of the request for representatives of the FWC to attend the upcoming JWC meeting on April 10, 2025.

Background Information: Pumpkin Hill Creek is in the Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park and is managed through a partnership between the National Park Service, the City of Jacksonville, and the North Florida Land Trust. In May 2024, the FWC approved updates to the rules pertaining to shrimp harvesting and received requests from stakeholders for multiple regulation changes that would increase shrimp harvest opportunities in northeast Florida. After conducting small group meetings, field visits, ride-alongs with commercial shrimp harvesters, and two public workshops to gather feedback, the FWC recommended opening a section of Pumpkin Hill Creek to allow recreational and commercial shrimp harvesting from September through December each year.

The FWC did not include the JWC as an interested stakeholder in its discussions. At the March 13, 2025, meeting of the JWC, the Pumpkin Hill Creek issue was raised. The JWC voted unanimously to request that the Jacksonville City Council pass a resolution expressing opposition to FWC's recommendation. JWC will hold a meeting on April 10, 2025, to discuss the opening of Pumpkin Hill Creek to shrimp harvesting before the FWC meeting on May 21, 2025, where a final vote on the recommendation to open the area to shrimp harvesting will occur.

Policy Impact Area: Wildlife management and conservation

Fiscal Impact: No direct cost to the City

Analyst: Russell