GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

HOUSE BILL 2

Short Title:	Bottlenose Dolphin as State Marine Mammal.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Representative Hanig. *For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*	
Referred to:	State Government, if favorable, Marine Resources and Aqua Culture, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	

January 28, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT ADOPTING THE BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN AS THE STATE MARINE MAMMAL.

Whereas, bottlenose dolphins are marine mammals that are abundant along North Carolina's coastline; and

Whereas, bottlenose dolphins have a short, thick beak and a curved mouth, giving the appearance that they are always smiling; and

Whereas, bottlenose dolphins are usually gray in color and can range in length from 6 to 13 feet long; and

Whereas, bottlenose dolphins are social animals that travel in groups of 10-15, called "pods"; and

Whereas, bottlenose dolphins produce high-pitched clicks, called "echolocation," to help them navigate and find food; and

Whereas, bottlenose dolphins can swim speeds of over 20 miles per hour, dive as deep as 800 feet below the surface, and can launch themselves up to 15 feet out of the water; and

Whereas, the State of North Carolina does not have an official State marine mammal; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"**§ 145-52. State marine mammal.**

The bottlenose dolphin is adopted as the official marine mammal of the State of North Carolina."

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.