

RESOLUTION # 21

SEAFOOD GLEANING

1 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's commercial fishing industry is valued (as of 2013) at \$133
2 million, with 120 million pounds of seafood caught; and

3 **WHEREAS**, it is estimated that 17 to 22 percent (approximately 2 billion pounds) of
4 the entire U.S. fisheries catch is discarded each year; and

5 **WHEREAS**, gleaning a portion of that total discarded seafood would make an
6 enormous impact on hunger nationwide by securing a much-needed source of protein for
7 food banks, pantries and soup kitchens; and

8 **WHEREAS**, at any time, more than 1 million residents in New Jersey, including
9 375,000 children, suffer from food insecurity, and that number expands to 49 million people,
10 including 16 million children, nationwide; and

11 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is home to some of the largest commercial fishing ports in
12 the United States; and

13 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's commercial fishermen seek to reduce hunger by
14 participating in a seafood gleaning program; and

15 **WHEREAS**, among the goals of the gleaning program is exposing consumers to the
16 tastes of some underutilized species, in the hope they will seek them out in the future; and

17 **WHEREAS**, under the program being proposed, fishermen will receive neither
18 payment nor tax write-offs for the fish being gleaned; and

19 **WHEREAS**, regulated species will not be targeted for gleaning until such gleaning is
20 built into the management plan of each individual fish's by-catch quota, preventing the
21 unintended consequence of over-fishing as part of the gleaning program; and

22 **WHEREAS**, fishermen interested in supporting this gleaning program have made
23 application to the USDA and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
24 (NOAA) for grants that would help establish a United States Seafood Gleaning Program
25 (USSGP); and

26 **WHEREAS**, the USSGP would partner with seafood processors and distributors,
27 food banks and other interested parties to develop an innovative and compelling program for
28 the collaboration of fishermen, aquaculturists, fish dealers and processors in New Jersey and
29 along the East Coast to create usable fishery products from discards and underutilized
30 species, thus helping to address food insecurity.

31 **NOW, THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 104th State
32 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 6-7, 2019, do
33 hereby support and encourage the use of grants from all possible sources by New Jersey
34 fishermen to establish the United States Seafood Gleaning Program.

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support and encourage a USSGP pilot
36 project in Monmouth and Ocean Counties in New Jersey to promote these efforts.