

1 HJR601
2 119707-1
3 By Representative Collier
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 11-MAR-10

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8 URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO CONSIDER ALL
9 AVAILABLE MECHANISMS TO LESSEN THE SUDDEN IMPACT OF THE
10 CHANGES MADE TO THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND
11 MANAGEMENT ACT.

12

13 WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservaton
14 and Management Act emphasized prevention of overfishing and
15 rebuilding overfished stocks; and

16 WHEREAS, recent revisions to the Act were prompted
17 in part by criticism of progress toward ending overfishing and
18 rebuilding fish stocks; and

19 WHEREAS, such revisions impose significant
20 restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing in federal
21 waters and prohibitively short deadlines to end overfishing;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, every federally managed fishery that is
24 classified as undergoing overfishing is required to have
25 annual catch limits and accountability measures in place by
26 2010; and

1 WHEREAS, all other federally managed species are
2 required to have annual catch limits and accountability
3 measures in place by 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, such requirements include accountability
5 measures which stipulate that, if catch limits are exceeded
6 for such federally managed species, federal actions must be
7 stipulated to compensate for the harvest overage; and

8 WHEREAS, the consequence of such accountability
9 measures is that certain types of fishing activity, such as
10 recreational fishing, could be faced with ever-increasing
11 limits imposed over a minimal timeframe; and

12 WHEREAS, federal managers are considering a
13 ten-month closure of all fishing for the red snapper fishery;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, severely restricting or eliminating harvest
16 of the State's most valuable reef fish species will have the
17 unfortunate impact of putting Alabamians out of business; and

18 WHEREAS, the Act requires federal managers to use
19 the best scientific information available to end overfishing
20 and provide future sustainable harvest; and

21 WHEREAS, even though fishery scientists are using
22 the best scientific information available, there continues to
23 be inadequate funding to conduct the level of fisheries
24 monitoring and research necessary to meet the standards of the
25 Act; and

26 WHEREAS, to meet such standards, it is imperative to
27 provide federal fishery managers with the financial means

1 necessary to gather and analyze more complete and continuous
2 information on the status of fish stocks; and

3 WHEREAS, consistent with these conservation
4 requirements, recent changes to the Act direct that economic
5 impacts to fishing communities be minimized and that
6 mechanisms be provided to support the economic health of
7 fishing communities; and

8 WHEREAS, every effort should be made to provide
9 economic assistance to key fishing industries and businesses
10 that cannot survive the restrictions being implemented by
11 recent changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
12 and Management Act; now therefore,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
14 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby urge the Congress of
15 the United States to consider all available mechanisms to
16 lessen the sudden impact of the changes made to the
17 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and
18 to seek to balance resource protection with economic
19 prosperity in Alabama.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
21 resolution will be provided to the President of the United
22 States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the
23 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to
24 each member of Alabama's Congressional Delegation.