

By: Armbrister

S.C.R. No. 41

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Texas is blessed with a wealth of saltwater and  
3 freshwater fishing opportunities, and recreational fishing is one  
4 of the most popular outdoor sporting activities in the state; and

5 WHEREAS, Generating millions of dollars and enjoyed by people  
6 of all ages, recreational fishing makes a substantial contribution  
7 to local and state economies as well as to the quality of life in  
8 Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, High-quality fishing can be found in the state's  
10 bays and estuaries and other coastal waters, where the availability  
11 of fish has never been better, according to the Parks and Wildlife  
12 Department; and

13 WHEREAS, Rod and reel anglers strongly support the Parks and  
14 Wildlife Department's fisheries management regulations, including  
15 minimum size requirements, bag limits, and gear restrictions, and  
16 these conservation efforts have been successful; and

17 WHEREAS, The support of rod and reel anglers, who are  
18 committed to preserving and enhancing water quality in oceans,  
19 bays, and estuaries, is also important to the Texas Commission on  
20 Environmental Quality; and

21 WHEREAS, The Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas  
22 Commission on Environmental Quality have not found it necessary to  
23 restrict recreational fishing in marine waters because there has  
24 never been a clear indication that fishing was the cause of a

1 specific conservation problem; and

2 WHEREAS, Some state agencies may base regulations on studies  
3 that do not consider the economic impact of recommendations; in the  
4 case of proposed fishing or boating restrictions, the economic  
5 impact to coastal communities could be severe; and

6 WHEREAS, Ongoing studies of bays and estuaries are under the  
7 auspices of the Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Commission  
8 on Environmental Quality, and the Texas Water Development Board,  
9 which shares jurisdiction over freshwater inflows into bays and  
10 estuaries with the Parks and Wildlife Department; now, therefore,  
11 be it

12 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
13 hereby direct the Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Commission  
14 on Environmental Quality, and Texas Water Development Board to  
15 exclude consideration or promotion of any study or plan that  
16 recommends restrictions on recreational fishing areas; and, be it  
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature also direct the three  
19 agencies to require bay and estuary studies to include the economic  
20 impact to coastal communities with any proposal to restrict fishing  
21 or boating in those areas; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official  
23 copy of this resolution to the executive directors of the Parks and  
24 Wildlife Department and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
25 and to the executive administrator of the Texas Water Development  
26 Board.