

By: Armbrister

S.C.R. No. 41

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, TPWD and TCEQ have not found it necessary to
21 restrict recreational fishing in marine waters because there has
22 never been a clear indication that fishing was the cause of a
23 specific conservation problem; and

24 WHEREAS, Some state agencies may base regulations on studies

1 that do not consider the economic impact of recommendations; in the
2 case of proposed fishing or boating restrictions, the economic
3 impact to coastal communities could be severe; and

4 WHEREAS, Ongoing studies of bays and estuaries are under the
5 auspices of TPWD, TCEQ, and the Texas Water Development Board,
6 which shares jurisdiction over freshwater inflows into bays and
7 estuaries with TPWD; now, therefore, be it

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official
19 copy of this resolution to the executive directors of the Texas
20 Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Commission on Environmental
21 Quality and to the executive administrator of the Texas Water
22 Development Board.