

1-1 By: Armbrister S.C.R. No. 41
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed April 10, 2003; April 14, 2003, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources;
1-4 May 7, 2003, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9,
1-5 Nays 0; May 7, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, Texas is blessed with a wealth of saltwater and
1-8 freshwater fishing opportunities, and recreational fishing is one
1-9 of the most popular outdoor sporting activities in the state; and

1-10 WHEREAS, Generating millions of dollars and enjoyed by people
1-11 of all ages, recreational fishing makes a substantial contribution
1-12 to local and state economies as well as to the quality of life in
1-13 Texas; and

1-14 WHEREAS, High-quality fishing can be found in the state's
1-15 bays and estuaries and other coastal waters, where the availability
1-16 of fish has never been better, according to the Parks and Wildlife
1-17 Department; and

1-18 WHEREAS, Rod and reel anglers strongly support the Parks and
1-19 Wildlife Department's fisheries management regulations, including
1-20 minimum size requirements, bag limits, and gear restrictions, and
1-21 these conservation efforts have been successful; and

1-22 WHEREAS, The support of rod and reel anglers, who are
1-23 committed to preserving and enhancing water quality in oceans,
1-24 bays, and estuaries, is also important to the Texas Commission on
1-25 Environmental Quality; and

1-26 WHEREAS, The Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas
1-27 Commission on Environmental Quality have not found it necessary to
1-28 restrict recreational fishing in marine waters because there has
1-29 never been a clear indication that fishing was the cause of a
1-30 specific conservation problem; and

1-31 WHEREAS, Some state agencies may base regulations on studies
1-32 that do not consider the economic impact of recommendations; in the
1-33 case of proposed fishing or boating restrictions, the economic
1-34 impact to coastal communities could be severe; and

1-35 WHEREAS, Ongoing studies of bays and estuaries are under the
1-36 auspices of the Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Commission
1-37 on Environmental Quality, and the Texas Water Development Board,
1-38 which shares jurisdiction over freshwater inflows into bays and
1-39 estuaries with the Parks and Wildlife Department; now, therefore,
1-40 be it

1-41 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-42 hereby direct the Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Commission
1-43 on Environmental Quality, and Texas Water Development Board to
1-44 exclude consideration or promotion of any study or plan that
1-45 recommends restrictions on recreational fishing areas; and, be it
1-46 further

1-47 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature also direct the three
1-48 agencies to require bay and estuary studies to include the economic
1-49 impact to coastal communities with any proposal to restrict fishing
1-50 or boating in those areas; and, be it further

1-51 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official
1-52 copy of this resolution to the executive directors of the Parks and
1-53 Wildlife Department and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
1-54 and to the executive administrator of the Texas Water Development
1-55 Board.

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