

1-1 By: Bonnen (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.C.R. No. 133  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2011;  
1-3 May 9, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Government Organization; May 10, 2011, rereferred to Committee on  
1-5 Administration; May 17, 2011, reported favorably by the following  
1-6 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 17, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-7 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-8 WHEREAS, The lands and waters of Texas are home to a diverse  
1-9 range of animals, and a select number of these species have been  
1-10 recognized as official state symbols as a result of their  
1-11 significance to our history and culture; and

1-12 WHEREAS, A particularly rich natural environment is found  
1-13 along the Texas Gulf Coast, and of the many distinctive plants and  
1-14 wildlife found in that region, the red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*)  
1-15 is particularly deserving of recognition; and

1-16 WHEREAS, Also known as the redfish and the bull red, this  
1-17 majestic saltwater fish spends the first three years of its life in  
1-18 bays along the coast before heading into the open waters of the Gulf  
1-19 of Mexico; it also demonstrates the hardiness and adaptability so  
1-20 often found in the Lone Star State, swimming up rivers on occasion  
1-21 and also taking up residence in certain inland reservoirs; and

1-22 WHEREAS, Perhaps the most distinctive characteristic of the  
1-23 fish is its Texas-sized stature; at three years of age, the typical  
1-24 red drum is two-and-a-half feet long and will grow larger over the  
1-25 course of its long life; the biggest red drum caught in Texas waters  
1-26 was 54.25 inches long and weighed nearly 60 pounds; and

1-27 WHEREAS, The fish's size, along with its power, speed, and  
1-28 delicious flavor, has made it one of the most popular game species  
1-29 in Texas waters; whether wading through the shallows, casting with  
1-30 fly rods, or trying their luck in pier or surf fishing, anglers of  
1-31 all types prize the red drum as a catch; as a result, the fish plays  
1-32 an important role in boosting recreational tourism; and

1-33 WHEREAS, In decades past, redfish also helped drive the  
1-34 state's commercial fishing industry and at times made up as much as  
1-35 35 percent of its landings; overfishing and illegal netting took a  
1-36 toll, however, and by the early 1980s the drum population had  
1-37 dropped to dangerously low levels throughout the Gulf of Mexico;  
1-38 fortunately, state officials responded to the situation by enacting  
1-39 legislation and adopting wise management and enforcement measures,  
1-40 including the development of a revolutionary hatchery; today,  
1-41 numbers have rebounded to the point where the state has one of the  
1-42 best red drum fisheries in the nation; and

1-43 WHEREAS, An environmental success story as well as an  
1-44 awe-inspiring and much-sought-after resident of the Gulf Coast  
1-45 waters, the red drum is a celebrated member of our natural world,  
1-46 and it is indeed a fitting symbol of the Lone Star State; now,  
1-47 therefore, be it

1-48 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas  
1-49 hereby designate the red drum as the official State Saltwater Fish  
1-50 of Texas.

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