

By: Hinojosa

S.C.R. No. 41

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

5           WHEREAS, A particularly rich natural environment is found  
6 along the Texas Gulf Coast, and of the many distinctive plants and  
7 wildlife found in that region, the red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*)  
8 is particularly deserving of recognition; and

9           WHEREAS, Also known as the redfish and the bull red, this  
10 majestic saltwater fish spends the first three years of its life in  
11 bays along the coast before heading into the open waters of the Gulf  
12 of Mexico; it also demonstrates the hardiness and adaptability so  
13 often found in the Lone Star State, swimming up rivers on occasion  
14 and also taking up residence in certain inland reservoirs; and

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

20           WHEREAS, The fish's size, along with its power, speed, and  
21 delicious flavor, has made it one of the most popular game species  
22 in Texas waters; whether wading through the shallows, casting with  
23 fly rods, or trying their luck in pier or surf fishing, anglers of  
24 all types prize the red drum as a catch; as a result, the fish plays

1 an important role in boosting recreational tourism; and

2       WHEREAS, In decades past, redfish also helped drive the  
3 state's commercial fishing industry and at times made up as much as  
4 35 percent of its landings; overfishing and illegal netting took a  
5 toll, however, and by the early 1980s the drum population had  
6 dropped to dangerously low levels throughout the Gulf of Mexico;  
7 fortunately, state officials responded to the situation by enacting  
8 legislation and adopting wise management and enforcement measures,  
9 including the development of a revolutionary hatchery; today,  
10 numbers have rebounded to the point where the state has one of the  
11 best red drum fisheries in the nation; and

12       WHEREAS, An environmental success story as well as an  
13 awe-inspiring and much-sought-after resident of the Gulf Coast  
14 waters, the red drum is a celebrated member of our natural world,  
15 and it is indeed a fitting symbol of the Lone Star State; now,  
16 therefore, be it

17       RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas  
18 hereby designate the red drum as the official State Saltwater Fish  
19 of Texas.