

1-1 By: Hinojosa S.C.R. No. 41
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed April 11, 2011; April 13, 2011, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Administration;
1-4 April 26, 2011, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,
1-5 Nays 0; April 26, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, The lands and waters of Texas are home to a diverse
1-8 range of animals, and a select number of these species have been
1-9 recognized as official state symbols as a result of their
1-10 significance to our history and culture; and

1-11 WHEREAS, A particularly rich natural environment is found
1-12 along the Texas Gulf Coast, and of the many distinctive plants and
1-13 wildlife found in that region, the red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*)
1-14 is particularly deserving of recognition; and

1-15 WHEREAS, Also known as the redfish and the bull red, this
1-16 majestic saltwater fish spends the first three years of its life in
1-17 bays along the coast before heading into the open waters of the Gulf
1-18 of Mexico; it also demonstrates the hardiness and adaptability so
1-19 often found in the Lone Star State, swimming up rivers on occasion
1-20 and also taking up residence in certain inland reservoirs; and

1-21 WHEREAS, Perhaps the most distinctive characteristic of the
1-22 fish is its Texas-sized stature; at three years of age, the typical
1-23 red drum is two and a half feet long and will grow larger over the
1-24 course of its long life; the biggest red drum caught in Texas waters
1-25 was 54.25 inches long and weighed nearly 60 pounds; and

1-26 WHEREAS, The fish's size, along with its power, speed, and
1-27 delicious flavor, has made it one of the most popular game species
1-28 in Texas waters; whether wading through the shallows, casting with
1-29 fly rods, or trying their luck in pier or surf fishing, anglers of
1-30 all types prize the red drum as a catch; as a result, the fish plays
1-31 an important role in boosting recreational tourism; and

1-32 WHEREAS, In decades past, redfish also helped drive the
1-33 state's commercial fishing industry and at times made up as much as
1-34 35 percent of its landings; overfishing and illegal netting took a
1-35 toll, however, and by the early 1980s the drum population had
1-36 dropped to dangerously low levels throughout the Gulf of Mexico;
1-37 fortunately, state officials responded to the situation by enacting
1-38 legislation and adopting wise management and enforcement measures,
1-39 including the development of a revolutionary hatchery; today,
1-40 numbers have rebounded to the point where the state has one of the
1-41 best red drum fisheries in the nation; and

1-42 WHEREAS, An environmental success story as well as an
1-43 awe-inspiring and much-sought-after resident of the Gulf Coast
1-44 waters, the red drum is a celebrated member of our natural world,
1-45 and it is indeed a fitting symbol of the Lone Star State; now,
1-46 therefore, be it

1-47 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
1-48 hereby designate the red drum as the official State Saltwater Fish
1-49 of Texas.

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