

By: Faircloth

H.R. No. 1605

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing is a
2 problem with serious economic, environmental, and security
3 implications; and

4 WHEREAS, Illegal fishing accounts for economic losses of
5 billions of dollars per year globally, and millions of those lost
6 dollars result from poaching in the Gulf of Mexico; such activity is
7 largely conducted by foreign fleets at the expense of United States
8 fishermen, coastal communities, and the sustainability of global
9 fish stocks; and

10 WHEREAS, Illegal fishing is of particular consequence in
11 Texas, where the Gulf Coast waters supply seafood for the American
12 public and support the hospitality industry, tourism-related
13 businesses, and the vibrant recreational and commercial fishing
14 industry; not only does illegal fishing result in economic losses
15 to the Texas fishing industry and other coastal businesses, but it
16 also is a threat to the sustainability of our fisheries and to the
17 Texas Gulf Coast ecosystem; and

18 WHEREAS, The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the
19 United States Coast Guard are to be commended for their partnership
20 in investigating and apprehending foreign vessels engaged in
21 illegal activity along the Texas-Mexico border; and

22 WHEREAS, Foreign nationals fishing illegally in U.S. waters
23 compete for local stock, and they disregard state and federal laws
24 on catch limits; when they sell their fish in the United States,

1 they can flood the market with a cheaper product; moreover, they
2 often use banned longline netting that imperils marine mammals and
3 sea turtles; and

4 WHEREAS, Vessels involved with illegal fishing are also
5 associated with other crimes, including drug trafficking, human
6 trafficking, and illegal immigration, and the incursion by these
7 foreign fishing vessels into U.S. waters constitutes a violation of
8 our sovereignty; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
10 Legislature hereby express its commitment to the elimination of
11 illegal fishing, to the long-term conservation of Texas marine
12 resources, and to the protection of the Texas Gulf Coast fishing and
13 coastal communities; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Texas House of Representatives hereby
15 respectfully urge the United States Congress to take action to
16 protect our coastal borders and to end illegal, unreported, and
17 unregulated fishing in our sovereign waters; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk forward official copies of
19 this resolution to the president of the United States, to the
20 president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
21 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all members
22 of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this
23 resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to
24 the Congress of the United States of America.