

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, In recent years, the Gulf of Mexico has contained  
2 the highest total allowable catch of red snapper in decades, but in  
3 2016, anglers experienced the shortest recreational fishing season  
4 to date, lasting less than two weeks; and

5           WHEREAS, The U.S. government has overseen the Gulf  
6 recreational red snapper fishery for nearly four decades; today,  
7 federal management systems attempt to regulate red snapper fishing  
8 by the pound with tools specifically designed to manage the  
9 commercial sector, despite the fact that federal data collection  
10 systems are incapable of accounting to such a level of specificity  
11 for recreational harvests; and

12           WHEREAS, The U.S. government has, moreover, neglected to use  
13 recent data to provide meaningful guidelines and requirements for a  
14 systematic reallocation of federal fisheries; except for minor  
15 adjustments to account for errors in its own data collection  
16 system, the Gulf red snapper fishery allocation is based on highly  
17 suspect data from 1979-1986 and has remained unchanged since 1991;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, The federal government is currently promoting a  
20 management strategy to privatize the Gulf red snapper fishery;  
21 approximately 50 percent of the fishery is already held by private  
22 businesses, while another 20 percent has been designated to be  
23 sold; shares of this public resource have also been given away for  
24 free, based on a commercial operator's past catch history; and

1           WHEREAS, Because of extraordinarily remiss requirements in  
2 its conflict of interest guidelines, the federal fisheries  
3 management system allows commercial operators who already own red  
4 snapper shares or who may be gifted shares to serve on the Gulf of  
5 Mexico Fishery Management Council and to cast votes on issues that  
6 will result in direct financial benefit for them; and

7           WHEREAS, By creating a prohibitive environment for anglers  
8 and ethical issues among user groups and stakeholders, the U.S.  
9 government has proved itself incapable of properly managing red  
10 snapper fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, and all five states along the  
11 Gulf Coast have increasingly needed to implement regulations and  
12 seasons that are not consistent with the federal management plan;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, Numerous studies, including some funded by NOAA  
15 Fisheries, indicate that the greatest economic engine in the Gulf  
16 reef fishery is the recreational angling sector, and federal  
17 control should be relinquished to the Gulf states, which depend  
18 most on this vital public resource; now, therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas  
20 hereby encourage Congress to pass legislation or adopt policies  
21 allowing Texas to manage the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery out  
22 to 200 nautical miles; and, be it further

23           RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
24 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
25 the president of the Senate and to the speaker of the House of  
26 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
27 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that

H.C.R. No. 105

1 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
2 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

Bonnen of Brazoria  
Phelan  
Bonnen of Galveston

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 105 was adopted by the House on May 2, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 136, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 105 was adopted by the Senate on May 19, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor