

1-1 By: Bonnen of Brazoria (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.C.R. No. 105  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2017;  
 1-3 May 5, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-4 Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs; May 16, 2017, reported  
 1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 16, 2017, sent  
 1-6 to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-17 WHEREAS, In recent years, the Gulf of Mexico has contained  
 1-18 the highest total allowable catch of red snapper in decades, but in  
 1-19 2016, anglers experienced the shortest recreational fishing season  
 1-20 to date, lasting less than two weeks; and

1-21 WHEREAS, The U.S. government has overseen the Gulf  
 1-22 recreational red snapper fishery for nearly four decades; today,  
 1-23 federal management systems attempt to regulate red snapper fishing  
 1-24 by the pound with tools specifically designed to manage the  
 1-25 commercial sector, despite the fact that federal data collection  
 1-26 systems are incapable of accounting to such a level of specificity  
 1-27 for recreational harvests; and

1-28 WHEREAS, The U.S. government has, moreover, neglected to use  
 1-29 recent data to provide meaningful guidelines and requirements for a  
 1-30 systematic reallocation of federal fisheries; except for minor  
 1-31 adjustments to account for errors in its own data collection  
 1-32 system, the Gulf red snapper fishery allocation is based on highly  
 1-33 suspect data from 1979-1986 and has remained unchanged since 1991;  
 1-34 and

1-35 WHEREAS, The federal government is currently promoting a  
 1-36 management strategy to privatize the Gulf red snapper fishery;  
 1-37 approximately 50 percent of the fishery is already held by private  
 1-38 businesses, while another 20 percent has been designated to be  
 1-39 sold; shares of this public resource have also been given away for  
 1-40 free, based on a commercial operator's past catch history; and

1-41 WHEREAS, Because of extraordinarily remiss requirements in  
 1-42 its conflict of interest guidelines, the federal fisheries  
 1-43 management system allows commercial operators who already own red  
 1-44 snapper shares or who may be gifted shares to serve on the Gulf of  
 1-45 Mexico Fishery Management Council and to cast votes on issues that  
 1-46 will result in direct financial benefit for them; and

1-47 WHEREAS, By creating a prohibitive environment for anglers  
 1-48 and ethical issues among user groups and stakeholders, the U.S.  
 1-49 government has proved itself incapable of properly managing red  
 1-50 snapper fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, and all five states along the  
 1-51 Gulf Coast have increasingly needed to implement regulations and  
 1-52 seasons that are not consistent with the federal management plan;  
 1-53 and

1-54 WHEREAS, Numerous studies, including some funded by NOAA  
 1-55 Fisheries, indicate that the greatest economic engine in the Gulf  
 1-56 reef fishery is the recreational angling sector, and federal  
 1-57 control should be relinquished to the Gulf states, which depend  
 1-58 most on this vital public resource; now, therefore, be it

1-59 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas  
 1-60 hereby encourage Congress to pass legislation or adopt policies  
 1-61 allowing Texas to manage the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery out

2-1 to 200 nautical miles; and, be it further  
2-2       RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
2-3 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
2-4 the president of the Senate and to the speaker of the House of  
2-5 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
2-6 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
2-7 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
2-8 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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