88R16285 BK-D

By:  Hunter H.R. No. 491

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Texas Bays and Estuaries Day at the State Capitol is taking place on March 7, 2023, to raise awareness of the critical importance of our state's precious coastal water resources; and

WHEREAS, The Texas coast is home to nearly 7 million people across 18 counties; treasured by citizens throughout the state, it spans over 3,000 miles of bay shorelines and includes coastal prairies, saltmarsh wetlands, beaches, dunes, estuaries, and other ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, The eight major bay systems of Texas, Sabine Lake, Galveston Bay, Matagorda Bay, San Antonio Bay, Aransas Bay, Corpus Christi Bay, Upper Laguna Madre, and Lower Laguna Madre, connect inflows from inland streams and rivers with oceanic tidal waters from the Gulf of Mexico; this process results in the creation of estuaries composed of freshwater mixed with saltwater; and

WHEREAS, Our state's bays and estuaries serve as habitats for numerous species of fish and other wildlife, including endangered species, and contain coastal lands that are protected under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act; the coast's diverse natural environments also provide outstanding opportunities for nature enthusiasts and preservationists from all over the world; and

WHEREAS, Ranching, farming, fishing, and petroleum are among the industries that operate along the Texas coast; bays and estuaries help sustain waterborne commerce, energy and chemical manufacturing businesses, military operations, commercial fishing, and recreational activities and tourism, all of which contribute significantly to our state's economy; these areas also play a vital role in protecting communities from storms and floods and in providing shoreline stabilization and erosion prevention, thus helping to mitigate environmental damage while safeguarding lives and property; and

WHEREAS, The bays and estuaries of the Texas coastline are of tremendous environmental, recreational, and economic value to the Lone Star State, in addition to offering incomparable scenic beauty for all Texans to enjoy, and Texas Bays and Estuaries Day presents a welcome opportunity to highlight the necessity of preserving and maintaining these areas for the benefit of future generations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 7, 2023, as Texas Bays and Estuaries Day at the State Capitol and commend all those who are working to protect and preserve the bays and estuaries of the Texas coast.