

1 HR585  
2 119702-1  
3 By Representative Collier  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 11-MAR-10

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8           URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO CONSIDER ALL  
9 AVAILABLE MECHANISMS TO LESSEN THE SUDDEN IMPACT OF THE  
10 CHANGES MADE TO THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND  
11 MANAGEMENT ACT.

12  
13           WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservaton  
14 and Management Act emphasized prevention of overfishing and  
15 rebuilding overfished stocks; and

16           WHEREAS, recent revisions to the Act were prompted  
17 in part by criticism of progress toward ending overfishing and  
18 rebuilding fish stocks; and

19           WHEREAS, such revisions impose significant  
20 restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing in federal  
21 waters and prohibitively short deadlines to end overfishing;  
22 and

23           WHEREAS, every federally managed fishery that is  
24 classified as undergoing overfishing is required to have  
25 annual catch limits and accountability measures in place by  
26 2010; and

1           WHEREAS, all other federally managed species are  
2 required to have annual catch limits and accountability  
3 measures in place by 2011; and

4           WHEREAS, such requirements include accountability  
5 measures which stipulate that, if catch limits are exceeded  
6 for such federally managed species, federal actions must be  
7 stipulated to compensate for the harvest overage; and

8           WHEREAS, the consequence of such accountability  
9 measures is that certain types of fishing activity, such as  
10 recreational fishing, could be faced with ever-increasing  
11 limits imposed over a minimal timeframe; and

12           WHEREAS, federal managers are considering a  
13 ten-month closure of all fishing for the red snapper fishery;  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, severely restricting or eliminating harvest  
16 of the State's most valuable reef fish species will have the  
17 unfortunate impact of putting Alabamians out of business; and

18           WHEREAS, the Act requires federal managers to use  
19 the best scientific information available to end overfishing  
20 and provide future sustainable harvest; and

21           WHEREAS, even though fishery scientists are using  
22 the best scientific information available, there continues to  
23 be inadequate funding to conduct the level of fisheries  
24 monitoring and research necessary to meet the standards of the  
25 Act; and

26           WHEREAS, to meet such standards, it is imperative to  
27 provide federal fishery managers with the financial means

1 necessary to gather and analyze more complete and continuous  
2 information on the status of fish stocks; and

3 WHEREAS, consistent with these conservation  
4 requirements, recent changes to the Act direct that economic  
5 impacts to fishing communities be minimized and that  
6 mechanisms be provided to support the economic health of  
7 fishing communities; and

8 WHEREAS, every effort should be made to provide  
9 economic assistance to key fishing industries and businesses  
10 that cannot survive the restrictions being implemented by  
11 recent changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation  
12 and Management Act; now therefore,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
14 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby urge the Congress  
15 of the United States to consider all available mechanisms to  
16 lessen the sudden impact of the changes made to the  
17 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and  
18 to seek to balance resource protection with economic  
19 prosperity in Alabama.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
21 resolution will be provided to the President of the United  
22 States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the  
23 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to  
24 each member of Alabama's Congressional Delegation.