

1 HJR265  
2 201950-2  
3 By Representative Pringle  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 23-MAY-19

1  
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3           COMMENDING THE ALABAMA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND  
4 THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES,  
5 MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION, FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO RIGHTFULLY  
6 SECURE MANAGEMENT OF THE RED SNAPPER FISHERY FOR ALL  
7 ALABAMIANS

8  
9           WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Conservation and  
10 Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division, has done an  
11 excellent job of managing all of Alabama's marine fisheries  
12 resources through sound scientific assessment and monitoring,  
13 applied research, and enforcement programs; and

14           WHEREAS, the Marine Resources Division of the  
15 department has worked diligently to improve marine fisheries  
16 and habitats through the creation of the largest artificial  
17 reef network in the United States; and

18           WHEREAS, this strong and unprecedented habitat  
19 management has produced robust fisheries that significantly  
20 contribute to the coastal tourism economy, and has directly  
21 provided over 2,500 related jobs with an overall economic  
22 ripple effect of over \$315 million; and

23           WHEREAS, when the federal red snapper season for  
24 Alabama's recreational anglers was at an all-time low in 2016,  
25 Senator Richard Shelby, through his leadership of the

1 Appropriations Committee, provided an opportunity for states  
2 to implement a pilot project for managing their own  
3 recreational fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, when the federal red snapper season was  
5 again reduced in 2017 to the historic low of just three days,  
6 Congressman Bradley Byrne and the Alabama Congressional  
7 delegation, along with the four other Gulf Coastal states'  
8 Congressional delegations, worked with the Trump  
9 Administration and state marine fishery directors to take  
10 advantage of the opportunity to implement a pilot project for  
11 state-based management of the recreational red snapper  
12 fishery; and

13 WHEREAS, the resulting Exempted Fishing Permits that  
14 allowed the State of Alabama to manage the recreational red  
15 snapper season proved to be much more successful and reliable  
16 when using the Alabama Marine Resources Division "Snapper  
17 Check" program than the federal data program; and

18 WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management  
19 Council has now amended its Reef Fish Management Plan to allow  
20 the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,  
21 Marine Resources Division, the opportunity to manage the  
22 recreational red snapper fishery off our coast in perpetuity;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, because the Alabama Marine Resources  
25 Division has demonstrated its superior management of

1 recreational fisheries, Alabama's coastal communities can  
2 prosper once again and Alabama's anglers have a snapper season  
3 they can rely on; now therefore,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
5 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body commends the efforts  
6 of the Alabama Congressional Delegation and the Alabama  
7 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine  
8 Resources Division, for their efforts to secure management of  
9 the red snapper fishery for all Alabamians.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body hereby  
11 encourages the federal government to allow the Alabama  
12 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to manage all  
13 recreationally important species off the Alabama coastline for  
14 the benefit of Alabama's anglers, businesses, coastal  
15 communities, and all of our saltwater fisheries.

