

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

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

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

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

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

1           WHEREAS, when the federal red snapper season for  
2 Alabama's recreational anglers was at an all-time low in 2016,  
3 Senator Richard Shelby, through his leadership of the  
4 Appropriations Committee, provided an opportunity for states  
5 to implement a pilot project for managing their own  
6 recreational fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico; and

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

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

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

1                   WHEREAS, because the Alabama Marine Resources  
2 Division has demonstrated its superior management of  
3 recreational fisheries, Alabama's coastal communities can  
4 prosper once again and Alabama's anglers have a snapper season  
5 they can rely on; now therefore,

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

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