

By: Ellington

To: Conservation and  
Water Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 1082  
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-313, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REQUIRE A SEPARATE LICENSE FEE FOR CERTAIN NONRESIDENT CHARTER  
3 BOATS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 SECTION 1. Section 49-15-313, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:[LTR1]

7 49-15-313. (1) Any resident between the ages of sixteen  
8 (16) and sixty-five (65) years, as defined in Section 49-7-3,  
9 fishing in the marine waters of the state, shall obtain a  
10 saltwater sports fishing license for a fee of Four Dollars  
11 (\$4.00). This license shall be valid in any waters south of  
12 Interstate 10. Any resident citizen who is blind, paraplegic or a  
13 multiple amputee, or who has been adjudged by the Veterans  
14 Administration as having a total service-connected disability, or  
15 has been adjudged totally disabled by the Social Security  
16 Administration shall not be required to purchase or have in his  
17 possession a saltwater sports fishing license while engaged in  
18 such activities. Any resident exempt under this section shall  
19 have on his person while fishing proof of residency and age or  
20 disability.

21 (2) The commission shall prescribe the forms, types and fees  
22 for nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses except that the  
23 fee for a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license shall not  
24 be less than Twenty Dollars (\$20.00). The commission shall  
25 require a nonresident to purchase a nonresident freshwater fishing  
26 license and a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license if the

27 nonresident's state requires both licenses for a nonresident to  
28 fish in its marine waters.

29 (3) All resident vessels engaged in charter boat fishing,  
30 party boat fishing, head boat and guide boat fishing shall be  
31 issued a separate annual license by the commission at a fee of Two  
32 Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). All nonresident vessels engaged in  
33 charter boat fishing, party boat fishing, headboat and guide boat  
34 fishing shall be issued a separate annual license by the  
35 commission at a fee of Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800.00). If the  
36 applicant's domicile state charges a greater fee than the  
37 nonresident fee of Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800.00) for residents  
38 of Mississippi, then the applicant must pay the same fee that the  
39 applicant's domicile state charges a resident of Mississippi.

40 Crew members and customers of the licensed vessels shall not be  
41 required to purchase an individual resident or nonresident  
42 saltwater fishing license while sponsored by the licensed vessels.

43 An operator of a licensed vessel shall be required to report the  
44 number of customers to the department as required by the  
45 commission and the information shall be kept confidential and  
46 shall not be released, except to other fisheries management  
47 agencies or as statistical data. All nonresident vessels engaged  
48 in saltwater sport fishing tournaments, not to exceed an aggregate  
49 of twenty (20) days per calendar year, shall not be required to  
50 purchase an annual license as provided under this subsection.

51 (4) The saltwater sports fishing license is required for all  
52 recreational methods of finfish harvest.

53 (5) Any resident who purchases a lifetime sportsman's  
54 license, in accordance with Section 49-7-153, shall be entitled to  
55 fish in the marine salt waters of the state and shall be exempt  
56 from the purchase of a sport saltwater fishing license.

57 (6) Any person authorized to issue a license may collect and  
58 retain, for each saltwater fishing license issued, the additional  
59 fee authorized under Section 49-7-17.

60 (7) The fees collected from the sale of resident and  
61 nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses shall be deposited  
62 into the Seafood Fund and shall be used solely for the management  
63 of marine resources.

64           (8) Participants in the Very Special Fishing Olympics are  
65 exempt from this section.

66           (9) July 4 of each year is designated as "Free Saltwater  
67 Sports Fishing Day." Any person may saltwater sport fish without  
68 a license on the "Free Saltwater Sports Fishing Day."

69           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
70 and after July 1, 2000.