

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Gollott

To: Ports and Marine Resources

SENATE BILL NO. 2483

1 AN ACT TO CREATE CODE SECTION 49-15-84.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES TO ESTABLISH
3 A CLOSED SEASON ON THE USE OF CRAB TRAPS; TO AUTHORIZE THE
4 COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES TO DESIGNATE AS ABANDONED THOSE
5 TRAPS REMAINING IN PUBLIC WATERS DURING THE CLOSED SEASON; TO
6 PROVIDE THAT ABANDONED CRAB TRAPS ARE SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE REMOVAL
7 AND DISPOSAL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
10 49-15-84.1, Mississippi Code of 1972:

11 49-15-84.1. (1) The commission may establish a closed
12 season for the use of crab traps in the public waters of this
13 state. The commission may designate the closed season as not less
14 than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days between January
15 31 and April 1 in any year so designated by the commission. Any
16 crab trap remaining in the public waters after the expiration to
17 the seventh day of a closed season may be considered as abandoned
18 under the regulations established by the commission.

19 (2) The commission shall adopt rules to govern the removal
20 and disposal of abandoned crab traps as necessary to enhance:

- 21 (a) The conservation and management of crab resources;
- 22 (b) Boating safety;
- 23 (c) The cleanliness of the beds and bottoms of the
24 public waters of the state; and
- 25 (d) Enforcement of this chapter.

26 (3) Abandoned crab traps are litter and are subject to
27 immediate removal and disposal.

28 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
29 and after July 1, 2002.

