

By: Senator(s) Moffatt

To: Ports and Marine Resources

SENATE BILL NO. 2888

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-313, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT A SALTWATER SPORTS FISHING LICENSE SHALL BE VALID  
3 FOR 12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUANCE; 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:

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. The license shall be valid for a period of twelve  
13 (12) months from the date of issuance. Any resident citizen who  
14 is blind, paraplegic or a multiple amputee, or who has been  
15 adjudged by the Veterans Administration as having a total  
16 service-connected disability, or has been adjudged totally  
17 disabled by the Social Security Administration shall not be  
18 required to purchase or have in his possession a saltwater sports  
19 fishing license while engaged in such activities. Any resident  
20 exempt under this section shall have on his person while fishing  
21 proof of residency and age or disability.

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



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

30 (3) All resident vessels engaged in charter boat fishing,  
31 party boat fishing, head boat and guide boat fishing shall be  
32 issued a separate annual license by the commission at a fee of Two  
33 Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). All nonresident vessels engaged in  
34 charter boat fishing, party boat fishing, headboat and guide boat  
35 fishing shall be issued a separate annual license by the  
36 commission. The commission shall set the fees for nonresident  
37 vessel licenses as provided in Section 49-15-30. Crew members and  
38 customers of the licensed vessels shall not be required to  
39 purchase an individual resident or nonresident saltwater fishing  
40 license while sponsored by the licensed vessels. An operator of a  
41 licensed vessel shall be required to report the number of  
42 customers to the department as required by the commission and the  
43 information shall be kept confidential and shall not be released,  
44 except to other fisheries management agencies or as statistical  
45 data. All nonresident vessels engaged in saltwater sport fishing  
46 tournaments, not to exceed an aggregate of twenty (20) days per  
47 calendar year, shall not be required to purchase an annual license  
48 as provided under this subsection.

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

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

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

58 (7) The fees collected from the sale of resident and  
59 nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses shall be deposited



60 into the Seafood Fund and shall be used solely for the management  
61 of marine resources.

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

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

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

