SENEATE BILL NO. 2888

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

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

SECTION 1. Section 49-15-313, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

(2) The commission shall prescribe the forms, types and fees for nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses except that the fee for a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license shall not be less than Twenty Dollars ($20.00). The commission shall require a nonresident to purchase a nonresident freshwater fishing license and a nonresident saltwater sports fishing license if the
nonresident's state requires both licenses for a nonresident to 

fish in its marine waters.

(3) All resident vessels engaged in charter boat fishing, 

party boat fishing, head boat and guide boat fishing shall be 

issued a separate annual license by the commission at a fee of Two 

Hundred Dollars ($200.00). All nonresident vessels engaged in 

charter boat fishing, party boat fishing, headboat and guide boat 

fishing shall be issued a separate annual license by the 

commission. The commission shall set the fees for nonresident 

vessel licenses as provided in Section 49-15-30. Crew members and 

customers of the licensed vessels shall not be required to 
purchase an individual resident or nonresident saltwater fishing 

license while sponsored by the licensed vessels. An operator of a 

licensed vessel shall be required to report the number of 
customers to the department as required by the commission and the 

information shall be kept confidential and shall not be released, 

except to other fisheries management agencies or as statistical 
data. All nonresident vessels engaged in saltwater sport fishing 
tournaments, not to exceed an aggregate of twenty (20) days per 
calendar year, shall not be required to purchase an annual license 
as provided under this subsection.

(4) The saltwater sports fishing license is required for all 

recreational methods of finfish harvest.

(5) Any resident who purchases a lifetime sportsman's 

license, in accordance with Section 49-7-153, shall be entitled to 

fish in the marine salt waters of the state and shall be exempt 

from the purchase of a sport saltwater fishing license.

(6) Any person authorized to issue a license may collect and 

retain, for each saltwater fishing license issued, the additional 

fee authorized under Section 49-7-17.

(7) The fees collected from the sale of resident and 

nonresident saltwater sports fishing licenses shall be deposited
into the Seafood Fund and shall be used solely for the management
of marine resources.

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

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

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