

By: Representative Ishee

To: Marine Resources

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1425

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-321, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT MATERIALS REMAINING FROM PUBLIC OR PRIVATE
3 PROJECTS MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO PRESERVE OR CREATE FISHING REEFS
4 OR ANY OTHER ARTIFICIAL REEF; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-15-321, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 49-15-321. The commission is hereby authorized to establish
9 sanctuaries to protect the state's fishing resources. The
10 establishment of a sanctuary shall be based on overall public
11 interest and prudent fisheries management and research. The
12 commission shall establish nursery grounds in the estuaries and
13 bays sufficient to protect the state's fishing resources. Any
14 materials remaining from public and private projects may be used
15 by the commission to create and protect the state's fishing
16 resources, including artificial fishing reefs.

17 It shall be unlawful to engage in any activity prohibited by
18 the commission in a designated sanctuary or nursery area.

19 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
20 and after July 1, 2004.