

By: Representatives Frierson, Read, Janus

To: Marine Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 671

1 AN ACT TO REGULATE THE BAG LIMIT FOR CERTAIN SPECIES OF FISH;
2 TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE REGULATIONS; TO
3 DESCRIBE WHO SHALL BE JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY LIABLE FOR THE IMPOSED
4 PENALTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) It is unlawful for any recreational
7 fisherman to catch, take, possess or land below minimum legal size
8 or over creel limit red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*), misty
9 grouper (*Epinephelus mystacinus*), snowy grouper (*Epinephelus*
10 *niveatus*), yellowedge grouper (*Epinephelus flavolimbatus*), red
11 grouper (*Epinephelus morio*), black grouper (*Mycteroperca bonaci*),
12 gag grouper (*Mycteroperca microlepis*), scamp (*Mycteroperca*
13 *phenax*), yellowmouth (*Mycteroperca interstitialis*), rock hind
14 (*Epinephalus adscensionis*), and red hind (*Epinephalus guttatus*),
15 as established by regulations promulgated by the commission.

16 (2) It is unlawful for any recreational fisherman to possess
17 any fillet of any species of fish except as provided in Section
18 49-15-319.

19 (3) Any recreational fisherman who violates the provisions
20 of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined in
21 the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for one (1) fish
22 possessed in violation of this section or commission ordinance,
23 and fined Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for every fish over one
24 (1) possessed in violation of this section.

25 (4) Any recreational fisherman who violates the provisions
26 of this section or commission ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor
27 and shall be fined in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars
28 (\$250.00) for one (1) fillet of any species, and fined Five

29 Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for every fillet over one (1) of any
30 species, except as provided in Section 49-15-319. For purposes of
31 this chapter, fillet is defined as any piece or slice of fish.

32 (5) The master and owner of any vessel upon which any fish
33 or fillet is possessed in violation of this section shall be
34 jointly and severally liable for the penalty imposed herein.

35 (6) The fine imposed upon any recreational fisherman or
36 other person convicted under this section shall not be suspended
37 or reduced. This section applies only to recreational fishermen,
38 whether licensed or not, and does not apply to commercial
39 fishermen.

40 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
41 and after July 1, 2005.