

By: Senator(s) Gollott

To: Ports and Marine Resources

SENATE BILL NO. 2665

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN FROM TAKING CERTAIN  
2 FISH BELOW MINIMUM LEGAL SIZE AND OVER CREEL LIMITS ESTABLISHED BY  
3 THE COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES; TO PROVIDE PENALTIES; AND FOR  
4 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 as established by regulations issued by the  
9 commission of the following: Red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*),  
10 misty grouper (*Epinephelus mystacinus*), snowy grouper (*Epinephelus*  
11 *niveatus*), yellowedge grouper (*Epinephelus flavolimbatus*), red  
12 grouper (*Epinephelus morio*), black grouper (*Myceteronerca bonaci*),  
13 gag grouper (*Myceteronerca microlepis*), scamp (*Myceteronerca*  
14 *phenax*), yellowmouth (*Myceteronerca inaterstitalis*), rock hind  
15 (*Epinephelus adscensionis*), and red hind (*Epinephelus guttatus*).

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

22 (b) The captain or owner of a vessel upon which a fish  
23 is possessed in violation of this section shall also be fined for  
24 such violation.

25 (3) The fines imposed under this section shall not be  
26 suspended or reduced.

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