

By: Senator(s) Gollott

To: Ports and Marine Resources

SENATE BILL NO. 2683

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-64.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE WATERS CLOSED TO SHRIMPING; AND FOR RELATED
3 PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-15-64.1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 49-15-64.1. (1) The shrimp season shall open on the first
8 Wednesday of June. The shrimp season shall be closed from January
9 1 until it is opened the first Wednesday of June, except south of
10 the * * * Intracoastal Waterway. The shrimp season shall be
11 closed south of the * * * Intracoastal Waterway and west of the
12 Gulfport Ship Channel from May 1 until it is opened the first
13 Wednesday of June, except as may be provided in subsection (2) of
14 this section. For the purposes of this section only, that portion
15 of the * * * Intracoastal Waterway that extends from a point south
16 of Long Beach to a point south of Point Clear is described as
17 follows:



18 Begin at green buoy or beacon number 1 which is located
19 approximately three (3) miles north of West Point on Cat
20 Island, thence extending southwesterly to buoy or beacon
21 number 4P, thence southwesterly to Pass Marianne Light,
22 thence southwesterly to buoy or beacon number 15P at the
23 northernmost point of Merrill Coquille, thence
24 southwesterly to buoy or beacon number 17P, thence
25 southwesterly to buoy or beacon number 22, thence
26 westerly to Lighthouse Point and continuing westward
27 following the meandering of the shoreline to the
28 boundary line of the state.

29 (2) The commission, by majority vote, may open the season at
30 an earlier or later date in designated areas only after sampling
31 areas within its jurisdiction where shrimp may be caught for the
32 purpose of determining the count of shrimp per pound. The
33 commission may also, by majority vote, close certain designated
34 areas where the shrimp count is found, by sampling, to be in
35 excess of sixty-eight (68) per pound. If a natural or man-made
36 disaster has the potential of adversely affecting the shrimp
37 fishery, the commission, by majority vote, may open legal
38 shrimping areas.

39 (3) The following waters are protective and staging areas
40 for young shrimp, and are permanently closed to commercial and
41 recreational shrimping activities:



42 All waters north of a line beginning at a point
43 one-half mile due South of the shoreline at the
44 Mississippi-Alabama state boundary; thence running
45 westerly following the meanderings of the shoreline
46 one-half mile therefrom to Light "5" in the Bayou
47 Casotte Channel; thence running northerly to Light "7"
48 in the Bayou Casotte Channel; thence running westerly
49 following the meanderings of the shoreline one-half mile
50 therefrom to the intersection with the Pascagoula
51 Channel; thence running northwesterly to Beacon "50" in
52 the Pascagoula Channel; thence running southwesterly to
53 Beacon "49" in the Pascagoula Channel; thence running in
54 the most direct line to the northeast point of Singing
55 River Island; thence running westerly along the north
56 shoreline to the northwest point of Singing River
57 Island; thence running northwesterly to a point one-half
58 mile due south of the mouth of Graveline Bayou; thence
59 running westerly following the meanderings of the
60 shoreline one-half mile therefrom to Beacon "18" in the
61 Biloxi Bay Channel; thence running northwesterly to
62 Beacon "22" in the Biloxi Bay Channel; thence running
63 northwesterly to Beacon "26" in the Biloxi Bay Channel;
64 thence running westerly to Beacon "34", exclusive of the
65 Biloxi Channel itself; thence running westerly to Beacon
66 "30" in the Biloxi Channel, exclusive of the Biloxi



67 Channel itself; and thence running due South to a point
68 on the north shore of Deer Island; thence running
69 westerly following the north shore of Deer Island to the
70 westernmost tip; thence running westerly in the most
71 direct line to Biloxi Beacon "8"; thence running
72 westerly following the meanderings of the shoreline at a
73 distance of one-half mile therefrom to a point on the
74 centerline of the CSX Railroad Bridge over St. Louis
75 Bay; thence running westerly along the centerline of
76 said bridge to a point one-half mile south of the
77 western abutment; thence running southwesterly following
78 the meanderings of the shoreline, at a distance of
79 one-half mile therefrom, to a point one-half mile due
80 East of the mouth of Bayou Caddy; thence running due
81 West to the mouth of Bayou Caddy; thence running
82 southwesterly following the meanderings of the shoreline
83 to the southernmost point of the Mississippi shoreline
84 on the east bank of the mouth of the Pearl River thence
85 following the meanderings of the east bank of the Pearl
86 River to a point where the east bank of the Pearl River
87 intersects the centerline of the Highway 90 bridge;
88 thence westerly along the centerline of the Highway 90
89 bridge to a point that intersects the
90 Mississippi-Louisiana state boundary.



91 (4) The redesignation of beacon numbers by the United States
92 Coast Guard shall not alter the description of the boundary
93 described in this section.

94 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
95 and after its passage.

