

By: Representatives Zuber, Haney, McKnight,
Williams-Barnes, Crawford, Patterson,
Anderson (122nd)

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 68

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT OF
2 MISSISSIPPI'S TAILS N' SCALES PROGRAM AND SUPPORT FOR EVERY
3 RECREATIONAL ANGLER IN MISSISSIPPI TO HARVEST RED SNAPPER DURING A
4 SEASON SET BY THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES AND
5 MANAGED ACCORDING TO TAILS N' SCALES.

6 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
7 developed the Tails n' Scales Reporting Program to account for
8 Mississippi red snapper anglers' catch and effort; and

9 WHEREAS, Tails n' Scales has been peer reviewed and found to
10 be "a high-quality estimate" for the Mississippi recreational red
11 snapper fishery and that it would provide more, better quality and
12 more timely data than the NOAA Fisheries' Marine Recreational
13 Information Program's associated landings and effort estimates;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, NOAA Fisheries, under the United States Department
16 of Commerce, certified Tails n' Scales design and found it to be
17 an improvement in monitoring red snapper catch; and

18 WHEREAS, NOAA Fisheries, under the United States Department
19 of Commerce, and the Gulf Council issued Mississippi an exempt



20 fishing permit to manage red snapper fishing using Tails n' Scales
21 to monitor catch and effort; and

22 WHEREAS, red snapper recreational anglers have complied with
23 Tails n' Scales with a compliance rate greater than 95% which in
24 turn has provided the best red snapper recreational fishing data
25 ever recorded; and

26 WHEREAS, NOAA Fisheries, under the United States Department
27 of Commerce, and the Gulf Council, have initiated a process to
28 scale Tails n' Scales data into Marine Recreational Information
29 Data, disregarding the scientific achievement Tails n' Scales has
30 made, despite NOAA's own scientists on its Standing, Reef Fish,
31 Ecosystem, & Socioeconomic SSC Meeting stating Tails n' Scales
32 really rings a bell and is almost a "census" of fish caught and
33 not just a survey; and

34 WHEREAS, Mississippi's Constitution, Article 3, Section 12A
35 guarantees the people the right to fish and harvest fish under
36 good management practices; and

37 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
38 commend the Department of Marine Resources' scientists for their
39 achievements in fishery management science and from time to time
40 recognize and remember that every citizen has the liberty and
41 privilege to catch and harvest fish:

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
43 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
44 recognize Tails n' Scales as the best scientific information



45 available for monitoring red snapper catch and effort in
46 Mississippi, recognize the need for NOAA Fisheries, under the
47 United States Department of Commerce, and the Gulf of Mexico
48 Fisheries Management Council to not scale Tails n' Scales data
49 into the Marine Recreational Information Program data until all
50 additional information, such as the Great Red Snapper Count, is
51 accounted for, analyzed, and incorporated into a new stock
52 assessment, and recognize the need for NOAA Fisheries, under the
53 United States Department of Commerce, and the Gulf of Mexico
54 Fisheries Management Council to allow Mississippi to set a quota
55 not to exceed recent years' allocations and to continue monitoring
56 recreational red snapper harvest through Tails n' Scales, and
57 support Mississippi anglers' constitutional right to harvest fish
58 while using the best science available.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
60 furnished directly to the United States Secretary of Commerce,
61 Gina Raimondo, each member of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries
62 Management Council, Mississippi's United States Senators and
63 Representatives, and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

