

By: Representative Ellington

To: Conservation and Water Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 1083

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-84, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO CLARIFY REGULATION OF CRAB TRAPS AND FEMALE CRABS BEARING EGGS;
3 TO REPEAL SECTION 49-15-85, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
4 RELATES TO THE PROTECTION OF EGG-BEARING FEMALE CRABS AND
5 DUPLICATES PROVISIONS OF SECTION 49-15-84; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-15-84, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 49-15-84. (1) The commission shall coordinate with the Gulf
11 Coast Research Laboratory in the development of an ordinance for
12 the purpose of taking Callinectes sapidus (blue crab) or allied
13 species. The ordinance shall include provisions for the
14 establishment of size limits for individual or market use as well
15 as establishing legal harvest size for the cultivating of peeler
16 crabs and soft-shell crabs.

17 (2) The commission shall establish * * * specifications for
18 crab traps and shall require buoys of adequate size which are
19 identified as to the owner of the buoys and traps. * * *
20 Recreational crabbers may use no more than six (6) crab traps per
21 household. The taking of crabs with drop nets is permitted
22 without a license.

23 (3) (a) It is unlawful to catch, hold or have in possession
24 any female sponge crab or any female crab bearing visible eggs at
25 any time within marine waters. It is not unlawful to catch those
26 crabs unintentionally, if the crabs are immediately returned to
27 the water.

28 (b) This subsection shall not apply to the importation
29 of female crabs, if the shipment of imported female sponge crabs



30 has with it an invoice from a licensed harvester from a state that
31 allows the taking of such crabs or a certificate from the
32 appropriate agency verifying that the crabs were taken legally.

33 **SECTION 2.** Section 49-15-85, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
34 relates to the protection of egg-bearing female crabs and
35 duplicates provisions found in Section 1 of this act, is repealed.

36 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
37 and after July 1, 2002.

