

By: Representatives Bounds, Anderson, Baria, Barnett, Barton, Bennett, Busby, Crawford, DeLano, Eure, Haney, Ladner, Patterson, Read, Williams-Barnes, Willis, Zuber To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 82

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE REVISIONS TO THE
2 MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT THAT WILL PROVIDE BETTER USE OF AND ACCESS TO
3 THE NATION'S FISHERIES.

4 WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) has been an effective
5 tool for managing commercial fisheries, ending overfishing for
6 many species of fish, rebuilding fisheries that have undergone
7 overfishing for certain species of fish in both the South Atlantic
8 and Gulf of Mexico, such as black sea bass, red porgy, king and
9 Spanish mackerel, gag and red groupers, and it has further
10 provided for the protection of long-lived and slow-growing
11 deep-water corals; and

12 WHEREAS, commercial and recreational fishing are
13 fundamentally different activities that require different
14 management strategies, and the act has been ineffective at
15 allowing fishermen recreational access to certain fisheries once
16 those fisheries have been rebuilt so that the fishermen are able
17 to fish for certain species of fish in certain areas, such as, red



18 snapper in both the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic, cobia in
19 the South Atlantic and triggerfish in the Gulf of Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, the reauthorization of the act in 2007 created
21 numerous challenges for the management of marine fisheries
22 resources in the southeastern United States; and the inflexible
23 requirements of the act to rigorously manage fisheries under
24 strict annual catch limits have hindered the management of
25 recreational fisheries in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico,
26 and this inflexibility has fostered a serious erosion of public
27 confidence, trust and support for the fishery management system;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature that revisions
30 to the act are necessary to provide better use of and access to
31 certain trust resources, with these revisions being: to provide
32 flexibility to rebuilding plans; to provide alternative management
33 strategies; to increase public involvement and transparency when
34 scientific data are developed; to facilitate greater incorporation
35 of data, analysis, stock assessments and surveys from state
36 agencies and nongovernmental sources; and to repeal Section 407 of
37 the act and give the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council the
38 authority to use alternative fishery management measures for
39 recreational fisheries:

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
41 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING



42 THEREIN, That the Mississippi Legislature supports the adoption
43 and implementation of the proposed revisions to the
44 Magnuson-Stevens Act found in the Strengthening Fishing
45 Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act
46 and the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
48 furnished to the members of the Mississippi Congressional
49 Delegation and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

