



HM 0575

2003

## House Memorial

1  
2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging  
3 Congress to enact legislation to halt dredging on the  
4 Apalachicola River, to establish a channel of specified  
5 dimensions to support commercial barge traffic, to  
6 continue authority of the United States Army Corps of  
7 Engineers to perform maintenance of the river's navigation  
8 channel markings and lock system for recreational boating,  
9 and to provide for the restoration and maintenance of fish  
10 and wildlife resources and habitats of the Apalachicola  
11 River and Apalachicola Bay.

12  
13 WHEREAS, Florida's Apalachicola River has been designated  
14 by the State of Florida as an outstanding Florida Water, and

15 WHEREAS, the Apalachicola Bay has been designated by the  
16 United States as a National Estuarine Research Reserve and by  
17 the United Nations as an International Biosphere Reserve, and

18 WHEREAS, the Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay are  
19 the cornerstones to the economy of six Florida counties and  
20 provide thousands of jobs in commercial fishing, recreational  
21 fishing, and ecotourism to Floridians, and

22 WHEREAS, Apalachicola Bay provides nearly 90 percent of  
23 Florida's oysters and over 10 percent of the nation's oysters,  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the health and productivity of the Apalachicola  
26 River and the bay into which it flows are dependent upon the  
27 amount and quality of water that flows into and out of the  
28 river, and

29 WHEREAS, the Apalachicola River has been subject to  
30 navigational dredging performed by the United States Army Corps



HM 0575

2003

31 of Engineers that has resulted in environmental harm, including  
32 degraded water quality, loss of productive bottomland, hardwood  
33 habitat, and damaged fish habitat, and

34 WHEREAS, the dredging of the Apalachicola River is not  
35 economically efficient in that the Federal Government spends an  
36 estimated \$20 million a year to maintain the river for barge  
37 traffic, which amounts to an expenditure of approximately  
38 \$30,000 per barge, and

39 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the State of  
40 Florida finds that the cessation of dredging on the Apalachicola  
41 River, the establishment of a channel, 9 feet in width and 100  
42 yards in length, to support commercial barge traffic, the  
43 continuation of the authority of the United States Army Corps of  
44 Engineers to perform maintenance of the river's navigation  
45 channel markings and lock system for recreational boating, and  
46 the restoration and maintenance of fish and wildlife resources  
47 and habitats of the Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay are  
48 essential to the continued ecological and economic health and  
49 well-being of the region, NOW, THEREFORE,

50

51 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

52

53 That the Legislature of the State of Florida hereby urges  
54 Congress to enact legislation to halt dredging on the  
55 Apalachicola River, to establish a channel, 9 feet in width and  
56 100 yards in length, to support commercial barge traffic, to  
57 continue the authority of the United States Army Corps of  
58 Engineers to perform maintenance of the river's navigation  
59 channel markings and lock system for recreational boating, and  
60 to provide for the restoration and maintenance of fish and



HM 0575

2003

61 wildlife resources and habitats of the Apalachicola River and  
62 Apalachicola Bay.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
64 transmitted to the President of the United States, the President  
65 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States  
66 House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida  
67 delegation to the United States Congress.