



1 House Memorial

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 continue authority of the United
5 States Army Corps of Engineers to perform maintenance of
6 the river's navigation channel markings and lock system
7 for recreational boating, and to provide for the
8 restoration and maintenance of fish and wildlife resources
9 and habitats of the Apalachicola River and Apalachicola
10 Bay.

11
12 WHEREAS, Florida's Apalachicola River has been designated
13 by the State of Florida as an outstanding Florida Water, and

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

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

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

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



28 WHEREAS, the Apalachicola River has been subject to
 29 navigational dredging performed by the United States Army Corps
 30 of Engineers that has resulted in environmental harm, including
 31 degraded water quality, loss of productive bottomland, hardwood
 32 habitat, and damaged fish habitat, and

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

38 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the State of
 39 Florida finds that the cessation of dredging on the Apalachicola
 40 River, the continuation of the authority of the United States
 41 Army Corps of Engineers to perform maintenance of the river's
 42 navigation channel markings and lock system for recreational
 43 boating, and the restoration and maintenance of fish and
 44 wildlife resources and habitats of the Apalachicola River and
 45 Apalachicola Bay are essential to the continued ecological and
 46 economic health and well-being of the region, NOW, THEREFORE,

47
 48 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 49

50 That the Legislature of the State of Florida hereby urges
 51 Congress to enact legislation to halt dredging on the
 52 Apalachicola River, to continue the authority of the United
 53 States Army Corps of Engineers to perform maintenance of the
 54 river's navigation channel markings and lock system for
 55 recreational boating, and to provide for the restoration and



56 maintenance of fish and wildlife resources and habitats of the
57 Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
59 transmitted to the President of the United States, the President
60 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
61 House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida
62 delegation to the United States Congress.