



169964

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: FAV	.	
04/20/2010	.	
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The Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation  
(Detert) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete line 72  
and insert:  
and Management Act and seek to balance resource

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 6 - 65  
and insert:  
Act and seek to balance resource protection and  
economic prosperity in Florida.



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WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act emphasized preventing overfishing and rebuilding overfished stocks, and

WHEREAS, recent revisions to the act were prompted in part by criticism of progress toward ending overfishing and rebuilding fish stocks, and

WHEREAS, such revisions impose significant restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing in federal waters and prohibitively short deadlines to end overfishing, and

WHEREAS, every federally managed fishery that is classified as undergoing overfishing is required to have annual catch limits and accountability measures in place by 2010, and

WHEREAS, all other federally managed species are required to have annual catch limits and accountability measures in place by 2011, and

WHEREAS, such requirements include accountability measures which stipulate that if catch limits are exceeded for such federally managed species, federal actions must be stipulated to compensate for the harvest overage, and

WHEREAS, the consequence of such accountability measures is that certain types of fishing activity, such as recreational fishing, could be faced with ever-increasing limits imposed over a minimal timeframe, and

WHEREAS, in the federal waters of the South Atlantic, there are 10 species of economically important reef fish that are subject to the new deadline, and

WHEREAS, a number of similar actions to restrict harvest of reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico have been instituted, and



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42 WHEREAS, federal managers are considering a complete  
43 closure of all fishing for the Atlantic red snapper fishery, and

44 WHEREAS, severely restricting or eliminating harvest for 10  
45 of the state's most valuable reef fish species simultaneously  
46 will have the unfortunate impact of putting people out of  
47 business, and

48 WHEREAS, the act requires federal managers to use the best  
49 scientific information available to end overfishing and provide  
50 future sustainable harvest, and

51 WHEREAS, even though fishery scientists are using the best  
52 scientific information available, there continues to be  
53 inadequate funding to conduct the level of fisheries monitoring  
54 and research work necessary to meet the standards of the act,  
55 and

56 WHEREAS, to meet such standards, it is imperative to  
57 provide federal fishery managers with the financial means  
58 necessary to gather and analyze more complete and continuous  
59 information on the status of fish stocks, and

60 WHEREAS, consistent with these conservation requirements,  
61 recent changes to the act direct that economic impacts to  
62 fishing communities be minimized and that mechanisms be provided  
63 to support the economic health of fishing communities, and

64 WHEREAS, every effort should be made to provide economic  
65 assistance to key fishing industries and businesses that cannot  
66 survive the restrictions being implemented by recent changes to  
67 the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act,  
68 NOW, THEREFORE,