

HM 553

2010

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 Congress to consider all available mechanisms to lessen
4 the sudden impact of the changes made to the Magnuson-
5 Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2007
6 and seek to balance resource protection and economic
7 prosperity in Florida.

8
9 WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and
10 Management Act of 2007 emphasized preventing overfishing and
11 rebuilding overfished stocks, and

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

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

18 WHEREAS, every federally managed fishery is required to
19 implement annual catch limits and accountability measures by
20 2011, except with respect to Florida, and

21 WHEREAS, Florida is required to implement annual catch
22 limits by 2010 that are low enough to end, and then prevent,
23 overfishing for federally managed species that are subject to
24 overfishing, as determined by the United States Secretary of
25 Commerce, and

26 WHEREAS, such requirements include accountability measures
27 which stipulate that if catch limits are exceeded for such
28 federally managed species, federal actions must be stipulated to

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29 | compensate for the harvest overage, and

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

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

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

39 | WHEREAS, federal managers are considering a complete
40 | closure of all fishing for the Atlantic red snapper fishery, and

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

45 | WHEREAS, the act requires federal managers to use the best
46 | scientific information available to end overfishing and provide
47 | future sustainable harvest, and

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

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

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

61 WHEREAS, every effort should be made to provide economic
62 assistance to key fishing industries and businesses that cannot
63 survive the restrictions being implemented by recent changes to
64 the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of
65 2007, NOW, THEREFORE,

66

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

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69 That the Congress of the United States is requested to
70 consider all available mechanisms to lessen the sudden impact of
71 the changes made to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
72 and Management Act of 2007 and seek to balance resource
73 protection and economic prosperity in Florida.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
75 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
76 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
77 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
78 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.