

CS/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 and seek
6 to balance resource protection and economic prosperity in
7 Florida.

8
9 WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and
10 Management Act emphasized preventing overfishing and rebuilding
11 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 that is classified
19 as undergoing overfishing is required to have annual catch
20 limits and accountability measures in place by 2010, and

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

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

28 WHEREAS, the consequence of such accountability measures is

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29 | that certain types of fishing activity, such as recreational
30 | fishing, could be faced with ever-increasing limits imposed over
31 | a minimal timeframe, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

55 | WHEREAS, consistent with these conservation requirements,
56 | recent changes to the act direct that economic impacts to

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57 fishing communities be minimized and that mechanisms be provided
58 to support the economic health of fishing communities, and

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

64

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

66

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

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