

1 HJR265
2 201950-1
3 By Representative Pringle
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 23-MAY-19

COMMENDING THE ALABAMA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND
THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION, FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO RIGHTFULLY
SECURE MANAGEMENT OF THE RED SNAPPER FISHERY FOR ALL
ALABAMIANS

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division, has done an
excellent job of managing all of Alabama's marine fisheries
resources through sound scientific assessment and monitoring,
applied research, and enforcement programs; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Resources Division of the
department has worked diligently to improve marine fisheries
and habitats through the creation of the largest artificial
reef network in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this strong and unprecedented habitat
management has produced robust fisheries that significantly
contribute to the coastal tourism economy, and has directly
provided over 2,500 related jobs with an overall economic
ripple effect of over \$315 million; and

1 WHEREAS, when the federal red snapper season for
2 Alabama's recreational anglers was at an all-time low in 2016,
3 Senator Richard Shelby, through his leadership of the
4 Appropriations Committee, provided an opportunity for states
5 to implement a pilot project for managing their own
6 recreational fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, when the federal red snapper season was
8 again reduced in 2017 to the historic low of just three days,
9 Congressman Bradley Byrne and the Alabama Congressional
10 delegation, along with the four other Gulf Coastal states'
11 Congressional delegations, worked with the Trump
12 Administration and state marine fishery directors to take
13 advantage of the opportunity to implement a pilot project for
14 state-based management of the recreational red snapper
15 fishery; and

16 WHEREAS, the resulting Exempted Fishing Permits that
17 allowed the State of Alabama to manage the recreational red
18 snapper season proved to be much more successful and reliable
19 when using the Alabama Marine Resources Division "Snapper
20 Check" program than the federal data program; and

21 WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management
22 Council has now amended its Reef Fish Management Plan to allow
23 the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,
24 Marine Resources Division, the opportunity to manage the
25 recreational red snapper fishery off our coast in perpetuity;
26 and

1 WHEREAS, because the Alabama Marine Resources
2 Division has demonstrated its superior management of
3 recreational fisheries, Alabama's coastal communities can
4 prosper once again and Alabama's anglers have a snapper season
5 they can rely on; now therefore,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
7 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body commends the efforts
8 of the Alabama Congressional Delegation and the Alabama
9 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine
10 Resources Division, for their efforts to secure management of
11 the red snapper fishery for all Alabamians.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body hereby
13 encourages the federal government to allow the Alabama
14 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to manage all
15 recreationally important species off the Alabama coastline for
16 the benefit of Alabama's anglers, businesses, coastal
17 communities, and all of our saltwater fisheries.