

1 SJR47  
2 167880-1  
3 By Senators Glover, Albritton, Allen, Beasley, Blackwell,  
4 Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman, Dial, Dunn, Figures,  
5 Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston, Marsh, McClendon,  
6 Melson, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders, Sanford, Scofield,  
7 Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, Stutts, Waggoner,  
8 Ward, Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 28-APR-15

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8 URGING CONGRESS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL,  
9 UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING IN OUR SOVEREIGN WATERS.

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11 WHEREAS, illegal, unreported, and unregulated  
12 fishing is a global problem with serious economic,  
13 environmental, and security implications; and

14 WHEREAS, illegal fishing accounts for economic  
15 losses of up to billions of dollars per year nationally; such  
16 activity is largely conducted by foreign fleets at the expense  
17 of United States fishermen, coastal communities, and the  
18 sustainability of global fish stocks; and

19 WHEREAS, illegal fishing is of consequence in  
20 Alabama, where the Gulf Coast waters supply seafood for the  
21 American public and support the hospitality industry,  
22 tourism-related businesses, and the vibrant recreational and  
23 commercial fishing industry; not only does illegal fishing  
24 result in economic losses to the Alabama fishing industry and  
25 other coastal businesses, but it also is a threat to the  
26 sustainability of our fisheries and to the Gulf Coast  
27 ecosystem; and

1           WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard is to be  
2 commended for apprehending and investigating foreign vessels  
3 engaged in illegal activity along the United States-Mexico  
4 border, often patrolling the Gulf of Mexico in a cat-and-mouse  
5 game specifically with Mexican fishermen who are fishing  
6 illegally; and

7           WHEREAS, illegal fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico  
8 compete for local fish stock and disregard state and federal  
9 laws on catch limits or of marine species, including marine  
10 mammals and sea turtles that are indiscriminately killed by  
11 the use of illegal long-line netting; some of the illegally  
12 caught fish are exported back into the United States flooding  
13 the market with cheaper, illegally caught fish; and

14           WHEREAS, vessels involved with illegal fishing are  
15 also associated with other crimes, including drug trafficking,  
16 human trafficking, and illegal immigration, and the incursion  
17 by these foreign fishing vessels into United States waters  
18 constitutes a violation of our sovereignty; now therefore,

19           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
20 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby express our  
21 commitment to the elimination of illegal fishing, to the  
22 long-term conservation of Alabama marine resources, to the  
23 protection of the Alabama Gulf Coast fishing and coastal  
24 communities, and we hereby encourage the United States  
25 Congress to protect our coastal borders and to take action  
26 against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in our  
27 sovereign waters.

1                   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
2           resolution be sent to the Alabama Congressional Delegation.