

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 155

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

FISHING/RECREATIONAL: Expresses support for the proposed changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act found in the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act and the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the support of the Louisiana House of Representatives for the proposed changes
3 to the Magnuson-Stevens Act found in the Strengthening Fishing Communities and
4 Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act (H.R. 200 of the 115th
5 Congress) and the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017
6 (H.R. 2023 and S. 1520 of the 115th Congress).

7 WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act,
8 originally enacted as the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, is the primary
9 law governing marine fisheries management in United States federal waters; and

10 WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act,
11 commonly referred to as the Magnuson-Stevens Act, has been amended many times over the
12 years with two major recent sets of amendments to the law being the Sustainable Fisheries
13 Act of 1996 and then ten years later the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and
14 Management Reauthorization Act of 2006; and

15 WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Act has generally been an effective tool for
16 managing the commercial fisheries of the United States and ending overfishing for many
17 species; and

18 WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Act has also been instrumental in rebuilding
19 fisheries that have been overfished in both the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, such as

1 black sea bass, red porgy, king and Spanish mackerel, red snapper, gag and red grouper, and
2 in the protection of long-lived and slow-growing deep water corals; and

3 WHEREAS, the 2006 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
4 Conservation and Management Act has created numerous challenges for the management
5 of marine fisheries resources in the United States, particularly from the recreational fishing
6 perspective; and

7 WHEREAS, commercial and recreational fishing are fundamentally different
8 activities and require different management strategies; and

9 WHEREAS, as certain fish populations have been rebuilt, the Magnuson-Stevens Act
10 has been ineffective in allowing appropriate recreational access to those fisheries, such as
11 red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico and cobia in the South Atlantic; and

12 WHEREAS, the requirements by the federal government to manage fisheries under
13 strict quotas and annual catch limits and the general inflexibility within the current version
14 of the law have hindered more responsive management of recreational fisheries in the Gulf
15 of Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, this inflexibility has fostered a serious erosion of public confidence,
17 trust, and support for the current fishery management system under the federal agencies; and

18 WHEREAS, changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act are needed to provide better
19 utilization of and access to the nation's public trust resources for the American public and
20 the citizens of our states; and

21 WHEREAS, needed changes include incorporating biologically-based rebuilding
22 time lines; providing the regional fishery management councils with the authority to use
23 alternative fishery management measures for recreational fisheries; increasing public
24 involvement and transparency when scientific data are developed; facilitating greater use of
25 data, data analysis, stock assessments, and surveys from state agencies and nongovernmental
26 sources; and requiring periodic reexamination of fishery allocations in the South Atlantic and
27 Gulf of Mexico.

28 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana House of Representatives
29 supports the proposed changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act found in the Strengthening
30 Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act (H.R. 200 of

1 the 115th Congress) and the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017
2 (H.R. 2023 and S. 1520 of the 115th Congress).

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be provided to the
4 Louisiana Congressional Delegation, Governor John Bel Edwards, and the secretary of the
5 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 155 Engrossed

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Schexnayder

Expresses support for the proposed changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act found in the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act and the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017.