

1 SJR47
2 167880-2
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

1 SJR47

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4 ENROLLED, SJR47,

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

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8 WHEREAS, illegal, unreported, and unregulated
9 fishing is a global problem with serious economic,
10 environmental, and security implications; and

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

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

1 against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in our
2 sovereign waters.

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

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR47
Senate 28-APR-15
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Adopted: 28-MAY-15

By: Senator Glover