SLS 15RS-953 **ORIGINAL**

2015 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 66

BY SENATOR CHABERT

FISH/FISHING. Memorializes Congress to take action against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in Louisiana's sovereign waters by passing H.R. 774, the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to take action against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in Louisiana's sovereign waters by passing H.R. 774, the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015.

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

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

WHEREAS, illegal fishing is of particular consequence in Louisiana, where the Gulf Coast waters supply seafood for the citizens of the United States and support the hospitality industry, tourism-related businesses, and the vibrant recreational and commercial fishing industry; and

WHEREAS, not only does illegal fishing result in economic losses to the Louisiana fishing industry and other coastal businesses, but it also is a threat to the sustainability of our fisheries and to the Louisiana Gulf Coast ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard is to be commended for apprehending

and investigating foreign vessels engaged in illegal activity along the U.S.-Mexico border, often patrolling the Gulf of Mexico in a cat-and-mouse game specifically with Mexican fishermen who are fishing illegally; and

WHEREAS, illegal fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico compete for local fish stock and disregard state and federal laws on catch limits, or of marine species including marine mammals and sea turtles that are indiscriminately killed by the use of illegal long-line netting, and where some of the illegally caught fish is exported back into the U.S. and flood the market; and

WHEREAS, vessels involved with illegal fishing are also associated with other crimes, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal immigration, and the incursion by these foreign fishing vessels into U.S. waters constitutes a violation of our sovereignty.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to take action against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in our sovereign waters by passing H.R. 774, the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby expresses its commitment to the elimination of illegal fishing, to the long-term conservation of Louisiana marine resources, and to the protection of the Louisiana Gulf Coast fishing and coastal communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by McHenry Lee.

DIGEST

SCR 66 Original 2015 Regular Session Chabert

Memorializes Congress to take action against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in Louisiana's sovereign waters by passing H.R. 774, the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing Enforcement Act of 2015.