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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide that each of the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida have exclusive fishery management authority over reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico in waters that, on average, are 20 fathoms or less in depth, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BONNER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide that each of the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida have exclusive fishery management authority over reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico in waters that, on average, are 20 fathoms or less in depth, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Gulf Fisheries Fair-  
3 ness Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. STATE EXCLUSIVE FISHERY MANAGEMENT AU-**  
5 **THORITY OVER REEF FISH IN THE GULF OF**  
6 **MEXICO.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery  
8 Conservation and Management Act is amended—

9 (1) in section 101 (16 U.S.C. 1811)—

10 (A) in subsection (a), by inserting “and  
11 subsection (c) of this section” after “section  
12 102”; and

13 (B) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(c) STATE EXCLUSIVE FISHERY MANAGEMENT AU-  
15 THORITY OVER REEF FISH IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each of the States of  
17 Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida  
18 shall have exclusive fishery management authority  
19 over all Gulf reef fish in all waters that are—

20 “(A) within the exclusive economic zone in  
21 the Gulf of Mexico;

22 “(B) not further from shore than the line  
23 described under paragraph (2); and

24 “(C) between the projected lines deter-  
25 mined for that State under section 4(a)(2)(A)

1 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43  
2 U.S.C. 1333(a)(2)(A)).

3 “(2) DESCRIPTION OF LINE.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
5 publish a description of, and map showing, a  
6 continuous line in waters of the exclusive eco-  
7 nomic zone in the Gulf of Mexico along the  
8 coasts of the States referred to in paragraph  
9 (1), that is comprised of points that are, on av-  
10 erage, 20 fathoms in depth.

11 “(B) MINIMUM DISTANCE.—No point on  
12 such line shall be less than 9 nautical miles  
13 from the baseline from which the territorial sea  
14 of the United States is measured.

15 “(3) PROHIBITION ON LIMITING AUTHORITY TO  
16 FISH UNDER FEDERAL LAW.—The Secretary may  
17 not suspend, revoke, terminate, or otherwise limit  
18 the authority of any person under Federal law to en-  
19 gage in fishing, based on fishing by the person for  
20 Gulf reef fish in waters that are subject to the exclu-  
21 sive fishery management authority of a State under  
22 this subsection.

23 “(4) GULF REEF FISH DEFINED.—In this sub-  
24 section the term ‘Gulf reef fish’ means all fish listed  
25 in table 3 of appendix A to part 622 of title 50,

1 Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
2 date of enactment of this subsection).”; and

3 (2) in section 302(a)(1)(E) (16 U.S.C.  
4 1852(a)(1)(E)), by inserting “of this subsection and  
5 section 101(c)” after “paragraph (3)”.

6 (b) DEADLINE.—The Secretary of Commerce shall  
7 publish the 20-fathom line description and map required  
8 under the amendment made by subsection (a)(1) by not  
9 later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this  
10 Act.

11 (c) TERMINATION OF APPLICATION OF MORE RE-  
12 STRICTIVE FEDERAL REGULATIONS.—Sections  
13 622.4(a)(1)(iv) and 622.4(a)(2)(v) of title 50, Code of  
14 Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment  
15 of this Act, and any substantially similar regulation, shall  
16 not apply with respect to waters described in section  
17 101(c)(1) of the Magnuson-Steven Fishery Conservation  
18 and Management Act, as amended by this section.