

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 30

Concerning the San Diego long-range sportfishing fleet and rights to fish
the waters near the Revillagigedo Islands of Mexico.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM submitted the following resolution; which was referred to
the Committee on Resources

RESOLUTION

Concerning the San Diego long-range sportfishing fleet and
rights to fish the waters near the Revillagigedo Islands
of Mexico.

Whereas the long-range sportfishing fleet of San Diego has
fished the waters off Mexico's Revillagigedo Islands since
the early 1970's under agreements with various agencies
of the Mexican Government including the Mexican Navy,
the National Ecology Institute, and the Department of
the Environment, Natural Resources, and Fisheries;

Whereas, in June 1994, the President of Mexico declared the
islands would become part of a biosphere reserve and or-
dered an overall management plan, to include fishing reg-
ulations, to be completed within 1 year;

Whereas, in late 1994, the Mexican Navy closed the islands
to fishing until the management plan was complete;

Whereas, on January 21, 1995, the Mexican Government agreed to issue provisional permits allowing the San Diego sportfishing fleet to fish the waters more than 500 meters from the islands and announced that it would continue to do so until such time as a management plan was completed;

Whereas the Mexican Government has not completed a management plan for the islands;

Whereas, on March 26, 2002, without warning, the Mexican Government revoked all permits to fish within 6 nautical miles of the islands;

Whereas this action is having a devastating impact on the San Diego long-range sportfishing fleet, its employees, and tourism associated with the fleet;

Whereas Mexico's continued refusal to allow the sportfishing fleet access to the islands' waters will cause serious economic harm to the San Diego long-range sportfishing industry including layoffs, loss of boat sales, bankruptcies, and a negative annual economic impact of \$5,500,000;

Whereas, since March 26, 2002, the San Diego long-range sportfishing fleet has been working with the Mexican Government and the United States Departments of State and Commerce to restore their right to fish these waters off the islands, as outlined by previous agreements made with agencies of the Mexican Government;

Whereas the Mexican Government's inaction in addressing this dilemma is impacting the economic well being of numerous United States and Mexican businesses and the San Diego region;

Whereas the San Diego region and Mexico have enjoyed a long history of excellent trade relations and working together for mutual benefit; and

Whereas unilateral action such as the closure of the islands to all sportfishing represents a step backward from the free-trade environment and spirit of cooperation that the region and the Nation have tried to build with Mexico: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives urges
2 the Departments of State and Commerce to work with
3 their counterparts in the Mexican Government to resume
4 issuing permits for the San Diego long-range sportfishing
5 fleet to fish the waters more than 500 meters from the
6 Revillagigedo Islands, as they have for the past 30 years.

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