



LOUISIANA SENATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOUISIANA SENATE JOINS WITH SEN. BRET ALLAIN TO ADOPT SR 25 REQUESTING
TESTIMONY FROM FEDERAL OFFICIALS**

**RESOLUTION SEEKS TO HIGHLIGHT ISSUE OF THE HEALTH OF LOUISIANA'S
FISHERIES**

At the urging of Sen. Bret Allain, Senate Resolution (SR) 25 was adopted by the Louisiana State Senate on Monday with 30 co-authors signed on to the proposal.

The resolution urges and requests the "Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce to take such action as necessary to require the regional administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service's Southeast Regional Office and his scientists" to attend a meeting of the Louisiana Senate Committee on Natural Resources "to provide information on the red snapper season."

This request from the State Senate stems from Sen. Allain's SB 157, legislation that deals with the red snapper season and the attempt to highlight the health of our state's fisheries.

"If the health of our state's red snapper fisheries is in such poor condition that a determination was made by federal officials to only grant a nine (9) day season, then we need to seriously consider whether or not it is responsible to have a season this year at all," said Sen. Allain.

He added, "We want to know why such a shortened season is necessary and what the State of Louisiana can do to help our fisheries recover. These basic questions have yet to be answered. We hope to learn as much information as possible so that informed decisions can be made."

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources will also request testimony from Louisiana's representatives to the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

"Our fisheries are too important not to lay all the facts on the table. Fishing for snapper, whether recreationally or commercially, is an important part of Louisiana's culture and economy. But what is most important is the overall health of our fisheries, and that must be our ultimate goal when making policy," said Allain.

He concluded, "Our job is to protect and preserve our natural resources for future generations to come. We deserve to get answers to questions we have about the health of our fisheries from those that regulate us. This is what SR 25 does."

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