

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to study the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery and to limit the authority of the Secretary to promulgate any interim rules for the fishery and for other purposes.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. NELSON of Florida introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to study the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery and to limit the authority of the Secretary to promulgate any interim rules for the fishery 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Gulf of Mexico Red  
5 Snapper Fishery Protection Act".

6 **SEC. 2. GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER FISHERY.**

7 (a) STOCK ASSESSMENT.—

1           (1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Com-  
2           merce shall conduct a benchmark stock assessment  
3           of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery.

4           (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of  
5           Commerce shall submit to Congress a report on the  
6           findings of the assessment required by paragraph  
7           (1).

8           (b) LIMITATION ON RULES TO SHORTEN FISHING  
9           SEASON.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce  
11           may not promulgate any interim rule under section  
12           305(c) of the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conserva-  
13           tion and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1855(c)) or  
14           any final rule that decreases the number of fishing  
15           days in the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery to  
16           less than the number of such days in 2009—

17                   (A) prior to the date the Secretary submits  
18                   to Congress the report required by subsection  
19                   (a)(2); and

20                   (B) unless such report demonstrates the  
21                   need for any such an interim or final rule.

22           (2) EXISTING INTERIM RULES.—Any interim  
23           rule promulgated under section 305(c) of the Mag-  
24           nuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-  
25           ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1855(c)) that decreases the

1        number of fishing days in the Gulf of Mexico red  
2        snapper fishery to less than the number of such days  
3        in 2009 that was promulgated prior to the date of  
4        the enactment of this Act shall have no force or ef-  
5        fect.