**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**S. 697**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Concurrent Resolution

Sponsors: Senators Goldfinch and Campsen

Document Path: LC-0252PH-PH23.docx

Introduced in the Senate on March 30, 2023

Introduced in the House on February 14, 2024

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Invitations and Memorial Resolutions**

Summary: Marine recreational offshore harvest data collection

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

3/30/2023 Senate Introduced ([Senate Journal‑page 5](h:\sj\20230330.docx))

3/30/2023 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 5](h:\sj\20230330.docx))

2/8/2024 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 5](h:\sj\20240208.docx))

2/13/2024 Senate Adopted, sent to House

2/14/2024 House Introduced ([House Journal‑page 8](h:\hj\20240214.docx))

2/14/2024 House Referred to Committee on **Invitations and Memorial Resolutions** ([House Journal‑page 8](h:\hj\20240214.docx))

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=697&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[03/30/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/697_20230330.docx)

[02/08/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/697_20240208.docx)

Committee Report

February 08, 2024

S. 697

Introduced by Senators Goldfinch and Campsen

S. Printed 02/08/24--S.

Read the first time March 30, 2023

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The committee on Senate Fish, Game and Forestry

To whom was referred a Concurrent Resolution (S. 697) to encourage the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to develop a marine recreational offshore harvest data collection program to conserve marine fisheries, etc., respectfully

Report:

That they have duly and carefully considered the same, and recommend that the same do pass:

GEORGE E. “CHIP” CAMPSEN III for Committee.

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A concurrent RESOLUTION

to encourage the south carolina department of natural resources to develop a marine recreational offshore harvest data collection program to conserve marine fisheries while ensuring south carolinians and those who visit our coast each year have access to our public trust resources.

Whereas, the 2007 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) created numerous challenges for the management of federal marine recreational fisheries resources in the United States; and

Whereas, many of those challenges are a result of the federal Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), on which the MSA relies, poorly identifying and sampling the harvest of offshore recreational anglers in a timely manner; and

Whereas, the MRIP has been ineffective at allowing appropriate recreational access to fisheries as they rebuild, such as red snapper in the South Atlantic; and

Whereas, this federal system of management has fostered a serious erosion of public confidence, trust, and support for the National Marine Fisheries Service; and

Whereas, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is currently exploring a federal permit for South Carolina’s offshore anglers to improve their ability to count fish landed in this State; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly and South Carolina offshore anglers have far greater confidence in the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in counting fish and producing reliable data than the National Marine Fisheries Service; and

Whereas, states in the Gulf of Mexico have demonstrated that developing state-based data collection programs that supplement or replace MRIP leads to improved data accuracy and precision and more fishing opportunities for their anglers than the MRIP system alone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, encourage the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to develop a state‑based, marine recreational offshore fisheries data collection program, in lieu of a federal permit requirement, that ensures more reliable data for fisheries management and facilitates access to offshore fisheries for South Carolina anglers.

Be it further resolved that the South Carolina General Assembly requests the South Carolina Congressional delegation identify seed funds from appropriations to the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop the program.

Be it further resolved that the copy of this resolution be presented to the South Carolina Congressional Delegation, Governor’s office, and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

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