

public carriers to transport school children to and from school along regularly established transit routes, and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Prince George's County Board of Education, and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission.

Approved May 6, 1966.

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No. 60

(House Joint Resolution 50)

House Joint Resolution to request the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to inquire into means of conserving immature croakers, sea trout, and spot in Southern Atlantic waters.

WHEREAS, There has been a drastic decline and persistent low abundance of mature croakers, sea trout, and spot in Maryland's waters; and

WHEREAS, This decline and persistent low availability of these fish has prevailed over much, if not all, of the natural range of these species on the Atlantic Coast; and

WHEREAS, These species of fish are much desired as table fish, as a source of commercial harvest, and have a great demand and potential for the increasing recreational fishing; and

WHEREAS, The timing of decline in abundance and ensuing persistent low abundance closely follows the inception and growth of the trawl fishery for shrimp in southern Atlantic waters; and

WHEREAS, This shrimp trawl fishery catches immature croakers, sea trout, and spot incidental to the capture of shrimp; and

WHEREAS, A market for such small immature fish has been developed that only in small measure capitalizes on their potential worth and usefulness; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission be requested to investigate more fully and empirically means to permit the escape of immature croakers, sea trout, and spot in the southern shrimp trawl fishery; and be it further

*Resolved*, That since the sales of immature croakers, sea trout, and spot as well as other valuable species, as industrial fish in a limited area by a small number of individuals may well be a subsidizing and sustaining activity leading to unwise exploitation of a resource of coastwise interest, that this fishery be thoroughly examined biologically and economically with a view toward maximizing the potential for fish stocks of importance to the many states of the Atlantic Coast; and be it further