

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA SUPPORTING A REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT THAT INCLUDES INCREASED FLEXIBILITY, USAGE OF RECENT AND RELEVANT DATA; EVALUATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF A COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER REFERENDA; PROVIDING AUTHORIZATION TO STAFF AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Port St. Joe is a Florida Municipality chartered on July 1, 1913;

WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act ("the Magnuson-Stevens Act") was originally enacted in 1976 and remains the primary law governing marine fisheries in federal waters in the United States;

WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Act lacks some critical components, like flexibility for states in managing recreational and commercial fisheries but contains other important features like stakeholder referendum requirements;

WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Act expired in September 2013 and Congress is currently working on its reauthorization;

WHEREAS, the Gulf Coast's diverse fishing opportunities is one of the nation's most valuable assets;

WHEREAS, Florida is the number one state in angler expenditures (\$4.95 billion), according to 2011 USFWS Survey Information, making clear the importance of Florida's stakeholders' input;

WHEREAS, saltwater recreational fishing, including the red snapper fishery along Florida's Gulf Coast, in Florida has a \$13.1 billion economic impact and supports 109,300 jobs, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Economics of the United States 2012;

WHEREAS, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission provided a successful example of the flexibility needed at the state level when it held a 52-day summer recreational red snapper season in Florida's Gulf of Mexico state waters during 2014. This season provided recreational harvest opportunities for Florida's residents and visitors, economic opportunities for Florida businesses, while also allowing the continued recovery of the fishery; and

WHEREAS, the federal recreational red snapper season length has declined from 365 days per year to only nine days in 2014, during a time that red snapper has become more abundant as the stock continually improves, indicating the reliance on stale data;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Port St. Joe Board of City Commissioners the following:

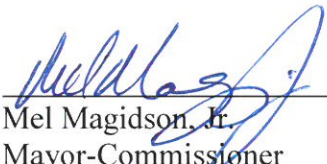
SECTION 1. SUPPORT CONGRESSIONAL REAUTHORIZATION. The City of Port St. Joe Board of City Commissioners supports reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act with increased flexibility, usage of recent data, evaluation of economic and social needs of a community, and stakeholder referenda.

SECTION 2. PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION. City of Port St. Joe Board of City Commissioners are hereby authorized to publicize the Board's adoption of this Resolution No. 2014-15

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution No. 2014-15 shall be effective on October 21, 2014.

CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY
OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

BY:



Mel Magidson, Jr.
Mayor-Commissioner

ATTEST:

By:



Charlotte M. Pierce
Auditor / Clerk