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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

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SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY URGING THE RHODE ISLAND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO  
GIVE RHODE ISLAND REPRESENTATION ON THE MID-ATLANTIC FISHERIES  
COUNCIL

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Sheehan, Walaska, McCaffrey, and Bates

Date Introduced: April 14, 2011

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Senate Task Force on Fisheries was established to  
2 provide a forum for individuals and organizations in the fishing community to present ideas and  
3 identify challenges facing these communities; and

4           WHEREAS, One of the challenges facing the Rhode Island fishing community is the lack  
5 of representation on the Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council (Mid-Atlantic); and

6           WHEREAS, The Mid-Atlantic Council is one of eight regional fishery management  
7 councils established in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation  
8 Management Act of 1976, as amended; the Councils are responsible for the management of  
9 fisheries in federal waters; and

10           WHEREAS, The Councils make recommendations regarding fisheries management  
11 policies to the Secretary of Commerce through the National Marine Fisheries Service; and

12           WHEREAS, States with voting representation on the Mid-Atlantic Council include New  
13 York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; and

14           WHEREAS, The Mid-Atlantic Council manages several fisheries, including Atlantic  
15 mackerel, squid, and butterfish (MSB) fisheries; and

16           WHEREAS, Rhode Island lands significant percentages of the MSB fisheries managed  
17 by the Mid-Atlantic Council, as follows: 18 percent of total landings for Atlantic mackerel, 38  
18 percent of total landing for ilex squid, 48 percent of total landings for butterfish, and 54 percent  
19 of total landings for loligo squid; and

1           WHEREAS, Senator Jack Reed has continually submitted legislation in support of the  
2 Rhode Island commercial fishing industry and especially, legislation providing Rhode Island  
3 voting representation on the Mid-Atlantic Council; now, therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States is urged to pass legislation  
5 sponsored by Senator Jack Reed providing Rhode Island with voting representation on the Mid-  
6 Atlantic Council; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
8 respectfully urges the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation to work with Senator Jack Reed to  
9 secure voting representation on the Mid-Atlantic Council; and be it further

10          RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
11 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

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