

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 87

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States and the United Nations should condemn coral reef fisheries that are harmful to coral reef ecosystems and promote the development of sustainable coral reef fishing practices worldwide.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. STARK, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PORTER, and Mr. EHLERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States and the United Nations should condemn coral reef fisheries that are harmful to coral reef ecosystems and promote the development of sustainable coral reef fishing practices worldwide.

Whereas coral reefs are among the most biologically diverse and productive ecosystems on Earth;

Whereas coral reef ecosystems are invaluable ecologically and economically, particularly to the inhabitants of tropical

island nations, the several States, and territories of the United States;

Whereas a wide variety of destructive fishing practices, including the use of cyanide, other poisons, surfactants, and explosives, are contributing to the global decline of coral reef ecosystems;

Whereas the use of poisons to capture fish for human consumption may pose a substantial threat to the health of those involved in these fisheries;

Whereas overharvesting of species and destruction of habitat jeopardize the integrity and balance of coral reef ecosystems;

Whereas the United States is the largest importer of coral reef fish for the aquarium trade, a large proportion of which are caught using cyanide; and

Whereas these fishing practices must be stopped to prevent irreparable harm to the global environment and to the economies of tropical island nations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that the United States and the United Na-
3 tions, through the International Coral Reef Initiative,
4 should—

5 (1) work with international organizations, for-
6 eign governments, nongovernmental organizations,
7 and the private sector, to identify, and eliminate or
8 modify, unsustainable fisheries or other practices

1 that are harmful to coral reefs and human health,
2 including—

3 (A) the use of poisons, surfactants, and ex-
4 plosives;

5 (B) the overharvesting and destruction of
6 components of coral reef ecosystems; and

7 (C) the patterns of consumer demand, in
8 the United States and abroad, that drive such
9 practices; and

10 (2) promote the sustainable use of coral reef re-
11 sources worldwide, consistent with Agenda 21 of the
12 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environ-
13 ment and Development, the Food and Agriculture
14 Organization Code of Conduct for Responsible Fish-
15 eries adopted in October 1995, and the International
16 Coral Reef Initiative Call to Action and Framework
17 for Action.

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