

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4742
OFFERED BY MR. BYRNE OF ALABAMA

At the end of title I add the following:

1 **SEC. ____.** **STOCK ASSESSMENTS USED FOR FISHERIES MAN-**
2 **AGED UNDER GULF OF MEXICO COUNCIL'S**
3 **REEF FISH MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title IV (16 U.S.C. 1881 et seq.)
5 is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 409. STOCK ASSESSMENTS USED FOR FISHERIES**
7 **MANAGED UNDER GULF OF MEXICO COUN-**
8 **CIL'S REEF FISH MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

9 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Gulf States Marine Fish-
10 eries Commission shall conduct all fishery stock assess-
11 ments used for management purposes by the Gulf of Mex-
12 ico Fishery Management Council for the fisheries man-
13 aged under the Council’s Reef Fish Management Plan.

14 “(b) **USE OF OTHER INFORMATION AND ASSETS.**—

15 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Such fishery assessments
16 shall—

17 “(A) incorporate fisheries survey informa-
18 tion collected by university researchers; and

1 “(B) to the extent practicable, use State,
2 university, and private assets to conduct fish-
3 eries surveys

4 “(2) SURVEYS AT ARTIFICIAL REEFS.—Any
5 such fishery stock assessment conducted after the
6 date of the enactment of the Strengthening Fishing
7 Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries
8 Management Act shall incorporate fishery surveys
9 conducted, and other relevant fisheries information
10 collected, on and around natural and artificial reefs.

11 “(c) CONSTITUENT AND STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPA-
12 TION.—Each such fishery assessment shall—

13 “(1) emphasize constituent and stakeholder
14 participation in the development of the assessment;

15 “(2) contain all of the raw data used in the as-
16 sessment and a description of the methods used to
17 collect that data; and

18 “(3) employ an assessment process that is
19 transparent and includes—

20 “(A) includes a rigorous and independent
21 scientific review of the completed fishery stock
22 assessment; and

23 “(B) a panel of independent experts to re-
24 view the data and assessment and make rec-
25 ommendations on the most appropriate values

1 of critical population and management quan-
2 tities.”.

