

**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**  
**Legislative Hearing**  
**1324 Longworth House Office Building**  
**January 13, 2026**  
**10:15 AM**

- **H.R. 5745 (Rep. Ezell)**, “*Marine Fisheries Habitat Protection Act*”

**Questions from Rep. Fulcher** for Mr. Ryan Montegut, Assistant Secretary of Fisheries, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

1. In what ways does the rigs to reefs program support unique local jobs?  
*Louisiana’s Artificial Reef Program (Rigs to Reefs) supports local jobs by providing additional business opportunities and increased patronage of marinas, gas stations, and charter fishing companies in Louisiana’s coastal communities. The inshore and nearshore reef projects that are funded by the program have created new manufacturing operations for companies like Cajun Corals, a company that manufactures concrete structures that are deployed in shallower waters to create additional artificial reefs. These new reefs are deployed to areas that lack underwater structure, which is beneficial to fishing and local tourism.*
2. Of the 478 reefed structures, how many would you estimate are still utilized by marine organisms?  
*100%, 478/478.*