



REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS

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Stephen P. Munisteri, Chairman

## Republican Party of Texas Resolution on Illegal Fishing by Foreign Fleets

**WHEREAS**, illegal fishing by foreign fleets is a global problem with economic, environmental and security implications; and

**WHEREAS**, illegal fishing worldwide accounts for economic losses of up to 23 billion dollars per year; and

**WHEREAS**, illegal fishing activity is conducted by foreign fleets at the expense of Texas fishermen, Texas coastal communities and the sustainability of global fish stocks; and

**WHEREAS**, foreign fishing vessel incursions into US waters and Texas coastal waters is a violation of our sovereignty; and

**WHEREAS**, the waters along Texas' Gulf Coast support vibrant commercial and recreational fisheries, hospitality industries, tourism-related businesses, and a rich supply of seafood for the American public; and

**WHEREAS**, illegal fishing along the Texas Gulf Coast results in economic losses to the Texas fishing industry and coastal businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, illegal fishing is a threat to the sustainability of our fisheries and Texas Gulf Coast ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, illegal fishing vessels are also associated with other crimes, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and illegal immigration;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Republican Party of Texas is committed to the long-term conservation of our marine resources, as well as the protection of the Texas fishing and coastal communities, and therefore encourages the Texas Legislature to investigate additional steps to eliminate illegal fishing along the Texas Gulf Coast, and reallocate funds within the state budget to enhance these efforts.

**Passed by the Texas State Republican Executive Committee on June 8, 2013**