

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 200, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. GAETZ OF FLORIDA

At the end of the bill, add the following:

1 **TITLE V—REEF ASSASSIN ACT**

2 **SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This title may be cited as the “Reef Assassin Act”.

4 **SEC. 502. ENCOURAGING ELIMINATION OF LIONFISH.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Magnuson-Stevens
6 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
7 1851 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

9 **“SEC. 321. ENCOURAGING ELIMINATION OF LIONFISH.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue regula-
11 tions under which a participating State may issue to an
12 individual submitting lionfish taken in Federal or State
13 waters a tag authorizing the taking of a fish of a covered
14 species in Federal waters in addition to any other fish of
15 that species the individual is authorized to take in Federal
16 waters.

17 “(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR ISSUANCE OF TAG.—The
18 regulations shall require—

19 “(1) the submission of 100 lionfish for each tag
20 issued;

1 “(2) that lionfish taken in State waters must be
2 taken by an individual holding a valid license to en-
3 gage in such fishing issued under the laws of such
4 State; and

5 “(3) that each lionfish shall be submitted by re-
6 moving the tail, placing it in a resealable plastic bag,
7 and submitting such bag to a participating State be-
8 fore the tail has significantly deteriorated.

9 “(c) NO LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF TAGS.—The
10 regulations shall not limit the number of tags that may
11 be issued to an individual.

12 “(d) USE OF TAGS.—The regulations shall provide
13 that a tag issued under the regulations—

14 “(1) shall be valid for the 5-year period begin-
15 ning on the date it is issued;

16 “(2) shall authorize only the recreational or
17 commercial taking of a fish that complies with any
18 size limit that otherwise applies to fishing for such
19 fish in the waters in which it is taken;

20 “(3) shall authorize such taking without regard
21 to any seasonal limitation that otherwise applies to
22 the species of fish taken;

23 “(4) shall authorize—

24 “(A) the transfer of tags to any other per-
25 son; and

1 “(B) use of transferred tags in the same
2 manner as such tags may be used by the person
3 to whom the tags were issued; and

4 “(5) shall require that any fish taken under
5 such tag outside any seasonal limitation that other-
6 wise applies to such fish must have the tag fastened
7 between the mouth and gill before being placed in
8 any cooler.

9 “(e) APPROVAL OF STATE TO PARTICIPATE.—

10 “(1) CONDITIONS.—The regulations shall re-
11 quire that as a condition of approving a State to
12 issue tags under this section the Secretary shall re-
13 quire the State to designate a repository for lionfish
14 submitted for such tags.

15 “(2) PROVISION OF FREEZER.—The Secretary
16 shall provide to each participating State freezers in
17 which to store submitted lionfish, at a cost of not
18 more than \$500 for each freezer.

19 “(f) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary
20 shall—

21 “(1) encourage participating States to use ex-
22 isting infrastructure and staff or volunteers to con-
23 duct the State’s program under this section;

1 “(2) include on the webpage of the National
2 Marine Fisheries Service information about the pro-
3 gram under this section; and

4 “(3) encourage State and local governments to
5 work with retailers and distributors to advance the
6 purchasing and consumption of lionfish.

7 “(g) OTHER PROVISIONS NOT AFFECTED.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—This section—

9 “(A) is intended to protect species of fish
10 that are native to waters of the United States
11 or the exclusive economic zone; and

12 “(B) shall not be construed to constrain
13 any fishery, fishing quota, or fishing allocation.

14 “(2) LIMITATION ON CONSIDERATION OF
15 TAGS.—This section and tags issued or authorized to
16 be issued under this section shall not be considered
17 in any determination of fishing levels, quotas, or al-
18 locations.

19 “(h) DEFINITION.—In this section—

20 “(1) the term ‘covered fish’—

21 “(A) except as provided in subparagraph
22 (B), means red snapper, gag grouper,
23 triggerfish, amberjack; and

24 “(B) does not include any species included
25 in a list of endangered species or threatened

1 species under the Endangered Species Act of
2 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

3 “(2) the term ‘participating State’ means a
4 State that has applied and been approved by the
5 Secretary to issue tags under regulations under this
6 section.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
8 in the first section of such Act is amended by adding at
9 the end of the items relating to title III the following:

“Sec. 301. Encouraging elimination of lionfish.”.

10 (c) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of
11 Commerce shall issue regulations under the amendment
12 made by subsection (a) by not later than 60 days after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act.

