AMENDMENT TO H.R. 9, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

Page 7, after line 5, insert the following new paragraph:

(9) Offshore oil and gas platforms provide a significant amount of structural acreage and protection for juvenile reef fish. For decades, low landings numbers and lack of habitat have caused a negative economic impact on commercial and recreational fishermen in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Furthermore, the removal of oil and gas platforms will not only negatively impact the essential fish habitat located in the Gulf of Mexico but will also result in significant increases in mortality rates for reef fish in the central and western Gulf of Mexico. To prevent these significant impacts to fishes of the Gulf of Mexico, oil and gas platforms must remain in place to continue providing nursing grounds for juvenile reef fish.