

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

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

1           (9) Offshore oil and gas platforms provide a  
2           significant amount of structural acreage and protec-  
3           tion for juvenile reef fish. For decades, low landings  
4           numbers and lack of habitat have caused a negative  
5           economic impact on commercial and recreational  
6           fishermen in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Ala-  
7           bama. Furthermore, the removal of oil and gas plat-  
8           forms will not only negatively impact the essential  
9           fish habitat located in the Gulf of Mexico but will  
10          also result in significant increases in mortality rates  
11          for reef fish in the central and western Gulf of Mex-  
12          ico. To prevent these significant impacts to fishes of  
13          the Gulf of Mexico, oil and gas platforms must re-  
14          main in place to continue providing nursing grounds  
15          for juvenile reef fish.

