

**CITY OF BILOXI
AGENDA ITEM
FACT SHEET**

Item No.: 4B

Council Meeting Date: June 23, 2026

ITEM TITLE: RESOLUTION
 INTRODUCED BY: Council President Kenny Glavan
 CONTACT PERSON:

SUMMARY EXPLANATION:

Resolution of The City of Biloxi, Mississippi, expressing strong support for The Federal "Protecting U.S. Fishers From Illegal Foreign Flags Act of 2026" to safeguard the local commercial fishing and shrimping industries.

Resolution Ordinance _____ Public Hearing _____ Routine Agenda _____

Exhibits for Review

Contract _____ Minutes _____ Plans/Maps _____ Deed _____ Lease _____
 Other (Specify): Exhibit A-S.4720 Bill

Submittal Authorization: Council President Mayor _____

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

COUNCIL ACTION: Motion By: _____ Second By: _____

Vote:	Councilmember	Yes	No	AFR	ABST	Councilmember	Yes	No	AFR	ABST
	Gray	___	___	___	___	Tisdale	___	___	___	___
	Marshall	___	___	___	___	Glavan	___	___	___	___
	Nail	___	___	___	___	Shoemaker	___	___	___	___
	Creel	___	___	___	___					

ACTION TAKEN:

Resolution No.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI, EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE FEDERAL "PROTECTING U.S. FISHERS FROM ILLEGAL FOREIGN FLAGS ACT OF 2026" TO SAFEGUARD THE LOCAL COMMERCIAL FISHING AND SHRIMPING INDUSTRIES

WHEREAS, the City of Biloxi, Mississippi, has a rich and historic heritage deeply rooted in the commercial seafood, shrimping, and maritime industries, which serve as vital economic drivers for the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, domestic fishers and shrimpers in Biloxi and across the Gulf of Mexico increasingly face unfair economic competition from foreign vessels utilizing "flags of convenience" to evade international labor standards, environmental regulations, and tax obligations; and

WHEREAS, the practice of using flags of convenience directly enables Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, which severely undercuts the market prices of sustainably harvested Gulf seafood and threatens the livelihoods of local fishing families; and

WHEREAS, United States Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Roger Wicker (R-MS) introduced S.4720, attached hereto as Exhibit "A", known as the Protecting U.S. Fishers from Illegal Foreign Flags Act of 2026, to amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and crack down on foreign nations that harbor these illicit vessels; and

WHEREAS, Councilman Kenny Glavan, Ward 6 representative, popularly known to his constituents as "the Saltwater Councilman" due to his advocacy for Biloxi's coastal waters and maritime economy, recognizes that immediate federal intervention is necessary to stabilize the local market, preserve generational family fleets, and protect domestic seafood supply chains;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: The City of Biloxi hereby declares its full and unwavering support for the Protecting U.S. Fishers from Illegal Foreign Flags Act of 2026 (S.4720), recognizing its passage as a critical step toward ensuring a fair and level playing field for domestic mariners.

SECTION TWO: The City of Biloxi urges the United States Congress, and specifically the Mississippi congressional delegation, to swiftly pass this vital legislation to protect Gulf Coast seafood heritage from foreign exploitation.

SECTION THREE: The Clerk of the Council is hereby authorized and directed to send certified copies of this resolution to U.S. Senators Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith, U.S. Representative Mike Ezell, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to formally state the City of Biloxi's position.



119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to consider nations with open registries in the Secretary's identification of nations engaging in or endorsing illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to consider nations with open registries in the Secretary's identification of nations engaging in or endorsing illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Protecting U.S. Fish-
5 ers from Illegal Foreign Flags Act of 2026".

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE HIGH SEAS DRIFTNET FISH-**
2 **ING MORATORIUM PROTECTION ACT.**

3 Section 609 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Mora-
4 torium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 “(E) Any nation that allows vessels to be
8 operated under the laws of the nation without
9 confirming a genuine link (as described in Arti-
10 cle 5(1) of the United Nations Convention on
11 the High Seas, done at Geneva on April 29,
12 1958 and entered into force September 30,
13 1962) between the nation and the persons or
14 entities with beneficial ownership and control of
15 the vessel, and that, as a result, fails to effec-
16 tively exercise flag state responsibilities as de-
17 scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (C).”;
18 and

19 (2) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (2)
20 and inserting the following:

21 “(2) SECRETARY TO AMEND TERM WITHIN LEG-
22 ISLATIVE GUIDELINES.—Not later than 90 days
23 after the date of enactment of the Protecting U.S.
24 Fishers from Illegal Foreign Flags Act of 2026, the
25 Secretary shall amend the definition of the term ‘il-
26 legal, unreported, or unregulated fishing’ published

1 at part 300.201 of title 50, Code of Federal Regula-
2 tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of such
3 Act) to be consistent with section 3532(6) of the
4 Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8001(6)).”.