

## Senate Resolution 9

By: Senators Heath of the 31st, Jeffares of the 17th, Mullis of the 53rd, Tippins of the 37th, Tolleson of the 20th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 15, 2015, as Sportsmen's and Coastal Day at the capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia is one of the most geographically and biologically diverse areas in the  
4 nation with abundant plant and animal populations that provide its citizens with unrivaled  
5 opportunities for recreation and commerce while also sustaining a quality of life that makes  
6 the state a great place to live and work; and

7 WHEREAS, Coastal Georgia is a particularly unique part of this diverse state with a half  
8 million acres of estuaries, 3,000 miles of tidal waterways, a chain of 14 barrier islands, and  
9 300 square miles of open Atlantic Ocean; and

10 WHEREAS, Coastal Georgia produces fresh seafood – shrimp, blue crabs, fish, and oysters  
11 – that is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike while also providing an estimated \$45 million  
12 of economic impact; and

13 WHEREAS, each year, over 1 million Georgia residents enjoy hunting and fishing from the  
14 Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean; and

15 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing – both freshwater and saltwater – generate \$216 million in  
16 state and local tax revenue annually, directly support 39,600 jobs in Georgia, and have a total  
17 economic impact of over \$3.8 billion annually; and

18 WHEREAS, Georgia ranks among the top hunting destination states thanks to its abundant  
19 wildlife populations and accessible wildlife habitat; and

20 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing license fees are the primary funding source for operating  
21 more than 1 million acres of wildlife management areas in Georgia, which provide a myriad  
22 of recreational and educational opportunities; and

23 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing license fees along with excise taxes paid on hunting and  
24 fishing equipment have funded the successful restoration of numerous wildlife and fish  
25 species, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bear, wood ducks, brook trout, and  
26 red drum; and

27 WHEREAS, the sportsmen and sportswomen of Georgia and the conservation organizations  
28 they support through donations and volunteerism work to preserve our state's natural lands  
29 and wildlife, which includes non-game as well as game animals.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
31 hereby recognize January 15, 2015, as Sportsmen's and Coastal Day at the capitol.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
33 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia  
34 Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus.