WHEREAS, The United States, with its vast coastlines on two oceans, the arctic seas and the Gulf of Mexico, and its abundant freshwater shorelines along the Great Lakes and our many rivers, reservoirs and other lakes, is among the largest fishing nations in the world, making up approximately fifteen percent of the fishery resources and economic output in the world; and

WHEREAS, Commercial fishing makes significant contributions to national, regional and state economies; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island commercial seafood and fishing industry is a vital part of the State's economy and a leading indicator of the State's economic well-being. Rhode Island's fishing industry catches more than ninety-three million dollars worth of seafood annually with a sales value of two hundred million dollars annually from transactions with processors, dealers, restaurants and grocers. Altogether, the Rhode Island fishing and seafood industry supports approximately 7,889 jobs; and

WHEREAS, According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the most dangerous jobs in the United States are in the commercial fishing industry. From 2000 to 2010, the fishing industry's death rate was 31 times greater than the national workplace average. From this same period, 545 commercial fishers perished while at sea; and
stocks our stores with fresh seafood and provides our restaurants with the seafood they need to
complete their menus; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island fishers toil daily for long hours braving the elements, and
often don't know what they will be paid until they land at the dock; and

WHEREAS, It takes incredible dedication and skill to catch the seafood we enjoy on our
dinner plates from the wild and unpredictable waters of the Atlantic Ocean. "The men and women
who work the fisheries of the Atlantic seaboard are as diverse as the fish they seek. They are of
all races and ages. Some are first-generation fishers; some come from generations of fishers, often
with one or more family-owned boats"; and

WHEREAS, Our commercial fishers have been hit by limits on their catches, lower
prices for their haul and higher prices for fuel. Combined with the danger of working in the
country's least-safe industry, the situation is prompting more fishers, most of whom are small,
independent operators, to hang up their nets; and

WHEREAS, As a result of this turmoil in their industry, our fishers know how to engage
in the complex issues and policymaking processes that impact their businesses. They protect our
community and ocean environment, and promote and market local seafood, and pilot sustainable
fishing practices; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's fishing and seafood industry is a crucial component of what
makes us the "Ocean State"; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
hereby expresses its sincerest admiration and appreciation and utmost respect for all Rhode Island
Fishers and the Rhode Island commercial fishing industry; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Anna Malek Mercer, Executive Director,
Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation and Richard L. Fuka, President of the Rhode Island
Fisherman's Alliance.
SENATE RESOLUTION

EXpressing appreciation and support for all Rhode Island Fishers and the Rhode Island Commercial Fishing Industry

Presented by

[Signatures]

[Names and Dates]
I, Stacy DiCola, Acting Deputy Secretary of State of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby Certify that the aforesaid is a true xerographic copy of: Senate Resolution 19R080 (19-S0246) entitled “Senate Resolution Expressing Appreciation and Support for all Rhode Island Fishers and the Rhode Island Commercial Fishing Industry” taken from the records in this office and compared with the original Senate Resolution 19R080 (19-S0246) passed in the Senate at the January session, A.D. 2019 on the sixth day of February, A.D. 2019 and now remaining in this office.

Proposed by: Senators Sosnowski, McCaffrey, Sheehan, Euer, and Algiere

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations this, thirteenth day of February, A.D. 2019

[Signature]
Acting Deputy Secretary of State