



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

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GUILLEN RECOGNIZED FOR COASTAL FISHING AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Galveston Bay Foundation Thanks Guillen for Work on H.B. 51 & 1724

AUSTIN - State Representative Ryan Guillen (D - Rural South Texas) was honored by the Galveston Bay Foundation earlier this week for his work in passing H.B. 51 and H.B. 1724. These bills, which Guillen authored, aim to help improve the ecosystem and the commercial fishing industry in the Gulf Coast following a decade of disasters.

"These bills were important to me because of the vital role that marine life plays as a coastal and economic resource," said Guillen.

The Galveston Bay Foundation has been preserving, protecting, and enhancing the Bay for 25 years. One key area of concern to the Foundation is the destruction of the oyster reefs and the resulting decline in oyster populations. Guillen passed H.B. 51 and 1724 to bolster the sustainability of Texas's fishing stocks by creating a voluntary oyster license buyback program to reduce the number of active licenses, combining the commercial fishing buyback accounts for shrimp, finfish, and oysters into one so that they can be more effective, and strengthening penalties for those that violate fishing laws by taking too many undersize oysters.

One particularly helpful provision of the measure is a "shell recycling" program that mirrors a program the Foundation already runs. Recycling shells replaces lost habitat for young oysters, which grow well on old shells, and helps ensure a swifter recovery of the population.

"By taking actions to maintain the viability of commercial fishing we can keep supporting Texas's thriving economy. I look forward to continue working to sustain resources while promoting industry and growth," remarked Guillen.

Serving ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, Ryan Guillen is known for his hard work, fierce independence, and relentless efforts for South Texas families. Recently, Capitol Inside called him a "House Bill Machine," and a "one-person assembly line for legislation." Since elected, few other legislators have passed more bills than Guillen. Sign up for updates at ryanguillen.com, facebook.com/representative.guillen, and twitter.com/ryanguillen

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