

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker Bill Would Strengthen the Fight Against Illegal Fishing

Under ‘Maritime SAFE Act,’ Multiple Government Agencies Would Contribute to Unified Effort

The term “lancha” has become well-known among Americans who are fighting against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Lanchas are small, propeller-driven watercraft that poachers from Mexico use to catch fish on U.S. reefs off the coast of Texas. These poachers do not abide by the rules, as U.S. fishermen do, and often use the spoils from their illegal catches to fund drug operations and other cartel activities. Worldwide, IUU fishing can mean big business, generating some \$15 billion in illicit revenue each year.

Pirate Fishing Threatens National Security

I asked about the use of lanchas during a recent Senate subcommittee hearing investigating the criminal exploitation of ocean resources. These lanchas are estimated to bring in five times the catch of red snapper that Mississippi’s fishermen are allowed each season. It is wrong for our law-abiding fishermen to be put at a competitive disadvantage because of pirate fishing.

According to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, IUU fishing is considered a threat to our national security. Given its connection to organized crime – not to mention the harm done to our fisheries – strategies to fight this illegal behavior should be tough and far-reaching. In 2014, the Senate ratified an important international treaty to keep vessels with illegal fish from entering U.S. ports, preventing this fish from ending up in our seafood market.

Although international

cooperation is essential to curbing this problem across borders, the United States can take action on its own. I have introduced the “Maritime Security and Fisheries Enforcement (Maritime SAFE) Act” with Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) to unify various government entities in the fight against illegal fishing. Among those efforts would be a special task force to address the role of lanchas and an interagency working group to offer enforcement training to countries vulnerable to IUU fishing. The bill’s call for coordination with the intelligence community would help improve surveillance and tracking.

‘The Poison Pill...From Catch to Plate’

The “Maritime SAFE Act” would also be a victory against seafood fraud, since the bill encourages the expansion of reporting and recordkeeping requirements through the Seafood Import Monitoring Program. I am deeply concerned by the fact that IUU fishing is estimated to account for a third of the fish caught globally. This rampant fraud hurts our seafood industry, misleads consumers, and distorts population estimates of fish species.

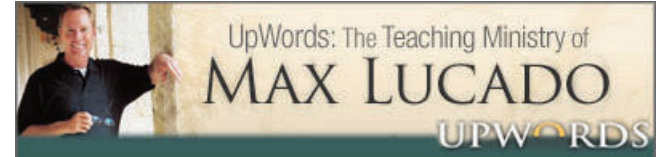
Consider, for example, the negative impact on our shrimp industry. More than 90 percent of the shrimp consumed in the United States is imported. Dr. David Veal, who serves as the executive director of the American Shrimp Processors Association, based in Biloxi, has called IUU fishing “the poison pill that taints the entire imported seafood chain, from catch to plate.” He noted that “the economic

Lexington plans for November 29 Christmas Parade



The city of Lexington’s Christmas parade is scheduled earlier this year than in years past. The annual parade, themed “Sights and Sounds of Christmas,” will be held on Thursday, November 29 at 6 p.m. Applications and participations rules for bands, floats, vehicles and groups to march in the parade can be picked-up at Lexington City Hall, deadline November 26. Pictured above (first row from left): Linda Sallis, Rev. Isaac Lindsey, Willie C. Howard, Sheriff Willie March, Sherri Reeves, Arnita Knight and Mayor Robin McCrory; Second row: Jeanette Neal, Maucie Wilsoxson, Carolyn Love, Yolanda Wallace, Lexington Fire Chief Derrick Hodges and Otha Johnson; Third row: Sally Cohen Fran Thurmond, Samantha Giles and Brooke Bell; Fourth row: Leroy Riley, Robert Easterling, Kristy Ingold, Officer Elijah Brooks and Officer John Newton. Not pictured: Robert Johnson and Marvin March.

(Photo submitted)



Nothing Compares With Him

To what can we compare God? Who is like the Lord?

What you are to a paper airplane, God is to you.

Make one. Challenge it to race you around the block. Who’s faster?

Invite the airplane to a game

interests of our seafood industry are seriously undercut by IUU activities, not just what happens on the water but what occurs during the production, distribution, and sale.”

Seafood continues to be a major protein source for populations around the world, not to mention a significant economic driver. Commercial and recreational fishing industries support 1.6 million American jobs. Pirate fishing exploits our ocean resources, and its catch wrongly infiltrates our markets. We cannot let this criminal activity jeopardize the livelihoods of America’s honest fishermen.

whom will you compare me? Who is my equal?” As if his question needed an answer, he gives one: I am God. I alone! I am God, and there is no one else like me.

King David marveled, “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?” (Psalm 139:7)

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Bulldogs fall to NWMCC Rangers, 27-14

The No. 14 Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell Thursday, September 27, to the No. 3 Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers in a North Division matchup, 27-14.

With the loss, the Bulldogs fell to 3-2 on the season and 1-1 in the North Division. Holmes hosts Itawamba in Goodman next Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Watch live at holmesccmedia.com or listen on the Bulldog Football Radio Network starting at 6 p.m.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a 7-0 second quarter lead when Jatavis Whitley broke through the line and blocked a Ranger punt allowing Orinthia May to pick it up and race in from 11 yards

out. Connor McKay’s kick was good with 14:45 left to play in the quarter.

Northwest answered the score later in the quarter on a three-yard run. The extra point was good, and the game was tied at seven with 4:35 left before halftime.

The Rangers then added a score with :29 left in the half on a six-yard pass. The extra point was good, and Northwest held a 14-7 advantage at the break. Holmes tied the game early in the third quarter with 10:10 left to play when Gabe Short scored from three yards out. McKay’s kick was good.

Northwest added a touchdown with 4:28 left in the quarter on a 26-yard touch-

down pass. The extra point was no good giving Northwest the 20-14 lead.

The Rangers’ final score came early in the fourth on a 5-yard run. The extra point was good ending all scoring at 27-14.

Quarterback Jesse Wilson led the Bulldogs in rushing with 95 yards on nine carries. Luke Wilson led the Bulldog defense with nine tackles and one tackle for loss while Caleb Wilson and Kendrick Haynes each had eight with Haynes adding two tackles for loss. Cedrick Moffett, Jha’mauri Johnson and Tyshawn White each had seven tackles. Moffett and Whitley added interceptions in the game.



Gabe Short, #16, plows his way in for the Bulldogs’ final touchdown of the game Thursday, September 27 vs. Northwest. Holmes fell to Northwest, 27-14, and went to 3-2 overall and 1-1 in the North Division. Holmes hosts Itawamba Thursday, October 4, in Goodman at 6:30 p.m. (Photo by Juco Weekly)

Notice of Closing

We will be closed all day

Monday, October 8

in celebration of

Columbus Day

We will reopen Tuesday, Oct. 9 at normal banking hours.



HOLMES COUNTY BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

Lexington, Goodman, Vaiden, and West