Title: Economic Impacts of Recreational Fishing in Alabama, USA

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Abstract: Fishing involves the act of hunting for fish by hooking or trapping and may also include pursuing other aquatic animals by extension. However, modern fishing is both a recreational and professional sport in communities with natural and man-made water bodies. Recreational fishing involves fishing for pleasure or recreation and it has conventions, rules, licensing restrictions and laws that limit the way in which fish may be caught to ensure sustainable practice amongst anglers. Recreational fishing is modern, recreational, and a sport in communities with natural and man-made water bodies. Thus, recreational fishing is fast becoming big tourist events in such communities. Policy makers, industry officials, independent investors, and others need information on the total economic impacts of specific local economic sector on various changes in the local economy. This paper presents estimates of total impacts of recreational fishing in the state of Alabama, and in the economically poor region of the state. The direct, indirect and induced impacts are expressed in terms of output, value added, and employment to the region. This study is aimed at the possibility of developing recreational fishing and using it as an economic booster for the poor region of the state of Alabama which are endowed with water bodies that could be so developed.