

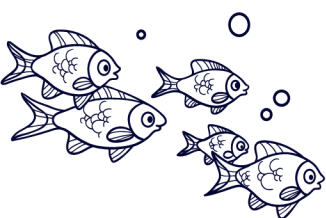
# Coach Tuberville

## Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act



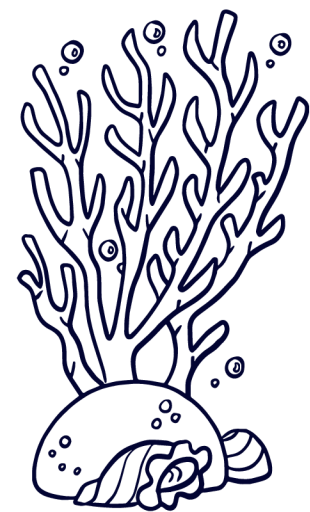
In 2004, Hurricane Ivan uncovered the ancient underwater cypress forest in the Gulf of Mexico, just off Alabama's coast.

The cypress trees remain intact, still rooted underground, forming a unique underwater ecosystem for fish, natural and underwater reefs, and aquatic life.



### Bill Summary:

1. To protect the cypress trees from being cut, damaged or logged and the seabed from being destroyed through a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) designation of a National Marine Sanctuary.
2. Provisions are in the bill to still allow fishing, diving, recreational and commercial activities in the underwater forest to allow the public to enjoy.
3. No cost is associated with the bill. There are currently sixteen National Marine Sanctuaries – this would be sanctuary number seventeen.
4. Establishes an advisory council to manage the Sanctuary and designates the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as a voting member of the council.
5. Essentially nothing will change – the trees just can't be cut down.



Coach Tuberville's bill is a WIN for the Gulf Coast and would protect Alabama's natural resources for generations to come.