

# MICHIGAN SENATE

## Senate Resolution No. 57

Offered by Senators Bumstead,  
Bayer, Cherry, Santana and Webber

### A RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, More than a century ago, hunters and anglers were among the first conservationists who realized America's natural resources were in peril and could not sustain unregulated harvest and habitat destruction; and

WHEREAS, Sportsmen and women took it upon themselves to support laws that stopped excessive harvest of fish and wildlife, established state agencies to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitat, and supported special fishing and hunting license fees to help fund these efforts to provide healthy natural resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, The Sport Fish Restoration Program, which began with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950, (further expanded with the Wallop Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984) is a vital part of conservation funding in the United States (U.S.); and

WHEREAS, We recognize that the primary authority to protect and manage fish within state waters resides in the state agencies; and

WHEREAS, Upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish populations, anglers supported excise taxes on fishing equipment to raise additional funds to support restoration and enhancement efforts of the state agencies; and

WHEREAS, A manufacturers' excise tax on fishing equipment, along with an excise tax on motorboat and small engine fuels, is mostly distributed back to the states through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for fisheries conservation, management, and angler and boater access; and

WHEREAS, Since 1939, the combined contribution of the Sport Fish Restoration Program and license fees to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$78 billion - more than any other single conservation effort in American history - which constitute, collectively, the American System of Conservation Funding; and

WHEREAS, This cooperative partnership between the sportfishing industry, anglers, boaters, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state agencies has resulted in the most successful model of fisheries management in the world, restoring and enhancing populations across the U.S. and its territories; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the members of this legislative body commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Sport Fish Restoration Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we recognize America's anglers, boaters, the sportfishing industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their leading role in restoring healthy populations of fish and aquatic resources, both game and non-game, to the abundance we see today.

Adopted by the Senate, June 12, 2025.



Secretary of the Senate