

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 57

Senator Bumstead offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Sport
2 Fish Restoration Program.

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

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

13 Whereas, The Sport Fish Restoration Program, which began with
14 the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in

1 1950, (further expanded with the Wallop Breaux amendment to the
2 Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984) is a vital part of conservation
3 funding in the United States (U.S.); and

4 Whereas, We recognize that the primary authority to protect
5 and manage fish within state waters resides in the state agencies;
6 and

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

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

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

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

28 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
29 body commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Sport Fish Restoration

1 Program; and be it further

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