

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATORS CATHEY AND LUNEAU

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Sport Fish Restoration Program, a part of the American System of Conservation Funding, on its seventy-fifth anniversary.

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 the new agencies' efforts to provide healthy natural resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana then and now recognizes that the primary authority to protect and manage fish within the state waters resides within 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 state agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Sport Fish Restoration Program, which began seventy-five years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950, and 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; and

WHEREAS, a manufacturer's excise tax on fishing equipment, along with an excise tax on motorboat and small engine fuels, are 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, this cooperative partnership between the sportfishing industry, anglers, boaters, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state natural resource agencies has resulted in the most successful model of fisheries management in the world, restoring and enhancing populations across the United States and its territories; and

WHEREAS, since 1939, the combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish

Restoration Programs and license fees to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds seventy-eight billion dollars, more than any other single conservation effort in American history, which constitute, collectively, the American System of Conservation Funding.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 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 nongame, to the abundance we see today with the help of the Sport Fish Restoration Program, in its seventy-fifth year of the program's establishment as part of the American System of Conservation Funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES