

By: Representative Bounds

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 58

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF
2 THE SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM AS PART OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM
3 OF CONSERVATION FUNDING.

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

8 WHEREAS, sportsmen and women championed laws that stopped the
9 excessive harvest of fish and wildlife, established state agencies
10 to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitat, and supported special
11 fishing and hunting license fees to help fund the new agencies'
12 efforts to provide healthy natural resources for future generations;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature has long recognized that
15 state agencies have the primary authority to protect and manage fish
16 within their state waters; and

17 WHEREAS, upon realizing that license fees alone were
18 insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish populations,



19 anglers supported excise taxes on fishing equipment to raise
20 additional funds to support restoration and enhancement efforts of
21 the state agencies; and

22 WHEREAS, the Sport Fish Restoration Program, which began 75
23 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish
24 Restoration Act in 1950 and was further expanded by the
25 Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984,
26 is a vital part of conservation funding in the United States; and

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

32 WHEREAS, since 1939, the combined contribution of the
33 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs and license fees to
34 state fish and wildlife agencies, which collectively constitute
35 the American System of Conservation Funding, exceeds \$78 billion,
36 more than any other single conservation effort in American
37 history; and

38 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
39 excellence, especially as exemplified by the cooperative
40 partnership between the sportfishing industry, anglers, boaters,
41 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Mississippi Department
42 of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, which has resulted in the most
43 successful model of fisheries management in the world, restoring



44 and enhancing populations across the United States and its
45 territories:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
47 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
48 THEREIN, That we do recognize America's anglers, boaters, the
49 sportfishing industry, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife,
50 Fisheries and Parks, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for
51 their leading role in restoring healthy populations of fish and
52 aquatic resources, both game and nongame, with the help of the
53 Sport Fish Restoration Program, in this 75th anniversary year of
54 the program's establishment as part of the American System of
55 Conservation Funding.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
57 furnished to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and
58 Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and to the members of
59 the Capitol Press Corps.

