

By: Representatives Wardlaw, Pearce

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO COMMEMORATE THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM AS PART OF THE
AMERICAN SYSTEM OF CONSERVATION FUNDING.

Subtitle

TO COMMEMORATE THE SEVENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPORT FISH
RESTORATION PROGRAM AS PART OF THE
AMERICAN SYSTEM OF CONSERVATION FUNDING.

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 harvesting and habitat destruction; and

WHEREAS, sportsmen and sportswomen took it upon themselves to support laws that stopped excessive harvesting of fish and wildlife, established state agencies to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitats, 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 House of Representatives then and now recognizes that the primary authority to protect and manage fish within Arkansas's 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, the Sport Fish Restoration Program, which began seventy-five (75) years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950 is a vital part of conservation funding in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act was further expanded with the Wallop-Breaux amendment in 1984; 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 United States 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 United States 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 Program, and license fees to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds seventy-eight billion dollars (\$78,000,000,000) and this is more than any other single conservation effort in American history,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize America's anglers, boaters, the sportfishing industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the United States 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 this the seventy-fifth (75th) anniversary year of the program's establishment as part of the American System of Conservation Funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution shall be provided by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, all Arkansas congressional offices, and local, regional and national media sources so that all may know and appreciate the foresight and contributions from anglers, the sportfishing industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of our nation's fisheries and aquatic resources.