

HR142 INTRODUCED



1 HR142

2 V7MTKPL-1

3 By Representatives Crawford, Whitt, Blackshear, Mr.Speaker,

4 Standridge, Mooney, Bolton, Easterbrook, Stubbs, Jackson,

5 Travis, Sells, Baker, Ingram, Stringer, Yarbrough, Colvin,

6 Ellis, Rigsby, Hammett, Sorrells, Rehm, Marques, Brown, Smith,

7 Whorton, Brinyark, Kirkland

8 RFD:

9 First Read: 18-Mar-25



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4 HR_____ COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPORT FISH
5 RESTORATION PROGRAM AS PART OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF
6 CONSERVATION FUNDING.

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

12 WHEREAS, sports men and women took it upon themselves
13 to support laws that stopped excessive harvesting of fish
14 and wildlife; established state agencies to protect fish,
15 wildlife, and their habitats; and supported special fishing
16 and hunting license fees to help fund the new agencies'
17 efforts to provide healthy natural resources for future
18 generations; and

19 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives then and now
20 recognizes that the primary authority to protect and manage
21 fish within their state waters resides in state agencies;
22 and

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

28 WHEREAS, the Sport Fish Restoration Program, which



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29 began 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in
30 Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950, further expanded with
31 the Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration
32 Act in 1984, is a vital part of conservation funding in the
33 United States; and

34 WHEREAS, a manufacturer's excise tax on fishing
35 equipment, along with an excise tax on motorboat and small
36 engine fuels, is mostly distributed back to the states
37 through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for fisheries
38 conservation, management, and angler and boater access; and

39 WHEREAS, this cooperative partnership among the
40 sportfishing industry, anglers, boaters, the U.S. Fish and
41 Wildlife Service, and state natural resource agencies has
42 resulted in the most successful model of fisheries
43 management in the world, restoring and enhancing populations
44 across the United States and its territories; and

45 WHEREAS, since 1939, the combined contribution of the
46 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs and license
47 fees to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$78
48 billion, more than any other single conservation effort in
49 American history, which constitutes, collectively, the
50 American System of Conservation Funding; now therefore,

51 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
52 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the House of Representatives
53 recognizes America's anglers, boaters, the sportfishing
54 industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the U.S.
55 Fish and Wildlife Service for their leading role in
56 restoring healthy populations of fish and aquatic resources,



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57 both game and non-game, to the abundance we see today with
58 the help of the Sport Fish Restoration Program, in this the
59 75th anniversary year of the program's establishment as part
60 of the American System of Conservation Funding.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of this
62 resolution be provided to the Alabama Department of
63 Conservation & Natural Resources, all Alabama Congressional
64 offices, and local, regional, and national media sources so
65 that all may know and appreciate the foresight and
66 contributions from anglers, the sportfishing industry, state
67 fish and wildlife agencies, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
68 Service on behalf of our nation's fisheries and aquatic
69 resources.