



HR0314

LRB104 13512 MST 25974 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

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

12 WHEREAS, The primary authority to protect and manage fish  
13 within its waters resides in state agencies; and

14 WHEREAS, Upon realizing that license fees alone were  
15 insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish populations,  
16 anglers supported excise taxes on fishing equipment to raise  
17 additional funds to support restoration and enhancement  
18 efforts of the state agencies; and

19 WHEREAS, The Sport Fish Restoration Program, which began  
20 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish  
21 Restoration Act in 1950 (further expanded with the Wallop

1 Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984),  
2 is a vital part of conservation funding in the United States;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, A manufacturers excise tax on fishing equipment,  
5 along with an excise tax on motorboat and small engine fuels,  
6 is mostly distributed back to the states through the U.S. Fish  
7 and Wildlife Service for fisheries conservation, management,  
8 and angler and boater access; and

9 WHEREAS, This cooperative partnership between the  
10 sportfishing industry, anglers, boaters, the U.S. Fish and  
11 Wildlife Service, and state natural resource agencies has  
12 resulted in the most successful model of fisheries management  
13 in the world, restoring and enhancing populations across the  
14 United States and its territories; and

15 WHEREAS, Since 1939, the combined contribution of the  
16 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs and license fees  
17 to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$78 billion, more  
18 than any other single conservation effort in American history,  
19 which constitutes, collectively, the American System of  
20 Conservation Funding; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
22 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we commend America's anglers, boaters, the sportfishing  
2 industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the U.S. Fish  
3 and Wildlife Service for their leading role in restoring  
4 healthy populations of fish and aquatic resources, both game  
5 and non-game, to the abundance we see today with the help of  
6 the Sport Fish Restoration Program, in this the 75th  
7 anniversary year of the program's establishment as part of the  
8 American System of Conservation Funding.