

# Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE  
RESOLUTION NO. 1023

By: Archer and Munson

A Resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Sport Fish Restoration Program; and directing distribution.

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 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 Oklahoma House of Representatives then and now recognizes that the primary authority to protect and manage fish within their state waters resides with 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 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950 (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, is 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 Sport Fish Restoration Program and license fees to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$78 Billion - more than any other single conservation effort in American history - which constitute, collectively, the American System of Conservation Funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 60TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives recognizes 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 non-game, to the abundance we see today with the help of the Sport Fish Restoration Program, in this the 75th anniversary year of the program's establishment as part of the American System of Conservation Funding.

THAT an official copy of this resolution be provided to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission, all Oklahoma 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of our nation's fisheries and aquatic resources.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 5th day of May,  
2025.

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Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.  
By: \_\_\_\_\_