

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                               STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                               1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4   HOUSE

5   RESOLUTION 1023

By: Archer

7                               AS INTRODUCED

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

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

16          WHEREAS, sportsmen and women took it upon themselves to support  
17          laws that stopped excessive harvest of fish and wildlife,  
18          established state agencies to protect fish, wildlife, and their  
19          habitats, and supported special fishing and hunting license fees to  
20          help fund the new agencies' efforts to provide healthy natural  
21          resources for future generations; and

22          WHEREAS, the Oklahoma House of Representatives then and now  
23          recognizes that the primary authority to protect and manage fish  
24          within their state waters resides with the state agencies; and

1       WHEREAS, upon realizing that license fees alone were  
2 insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish populations,  
3 anglers supported excise taxes on fishing equipment to raise  
4 additional funds to support restoration and enhancement efforts of  
5 the state agencies; and

6       WHEREAS, the Sport Fish Restoration Program, which began 75  
7 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish  
8 Restoration Act in 1950 (further expanded with the Wallop-Breaux  
9 amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984) is a vital part  
10 of conservation funding in the United States; and

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

16       WHEREAS, this cooperative partnership between the sportfishing  
17 industry, anglers, boaters, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and  
18 state natural resource agencies has resulted in the most successful  
19 model of fisheries management in the world, restoring and enhancing  
20 populations across the United States and its territories; and

21       WHEREAS, since 1939, the combined contribution of the Sport Fish  
22 Restoration Program and license fees to state fish and wildlife  
23 agencies exceeds \$78 Billion - more than any other single  
24

1 conservation effort in American history - which constitute,  
2 collectively, the American System of Conservation Funding.

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

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

13 THAT an official copy of this resolution be provided to the  
14 Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission, all Oklahoma  
15 Congressional offices, and local, regional, and national media  
16 sources so that all may know and appreciate the foresight and  
17 contributions from anglers, the sportfishing industry, state fish  
18 and wildlife agencies, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on  
19 behalf of our nation's fisheries and aquatic resources.

20  
21 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.  
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