

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1023

By: Archer

AS INTRODUCED

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

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
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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.

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21 60-1-13626 JL 04/25/25
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