

1           A RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Sport Fish  
2 Restoration Program as part of the American System of Conservation Funding.

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

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

11           WHEREAS, the primary authority to protect and manage fish within state waters  
12 resides with state agencies; and

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

17           WHEREAS, the Sport Fish Restoration Program, which is a vital part of  
18 conservation funding in the United States, began 75 years ago with the passage of the  
19 Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950; and

20           WHEREAS, the program was expanded in 1984 after the passage of the Wallop-  
21 Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act; and

22           WHEREAS, a manufacturer's excise tax on fishing equipment, along with an excise  
23 tax on motorboat and small engine fuels, is mostly distributed back to the states through  
24 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for fisheries conservation, management, and  
25 angler and boater access; and

26           WHEREAS, this cooperative partnership between the sportfishing industry, anglers,  
27 boaters, state natural resource agencies, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service

1 has resulted in the most successful model of fisheries management in the world, restoring  
2 and enhancing fish populations across the United States and its territories; and

3 WHEREAS, since 1939, the combined contribution of the Wildlife Restoration  
4 Program, the Sport Fish Restoration Program, and license fees to the state fish and  
5 wildlife agencies exceeds \$78 billion, which is more than any other single conservation  
6 effort in American history and constitutes, collectively, the American system of  
7 conservation funding; and

8 NOW, THEREFORE,

9 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*  
10 *Kentucky:*

11 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby recognizes America's anglers and boaters, the  
12 sportfishing industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the United States Fish and  
13 Wildlife Service for their leading role in restoring healthy populations of fish and aquatic  
14 resources, both game and nongame, to the abundance we see today. The Sport Fish  
15 Restoration Program, in this 75th year, is the model for the American system of  
16 conservation funding.

17 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
18 Resolution to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and to the offices  
19 of the members of Kentucky's congressional delegation. Those receiving this resolution  
20 are encouraged to further its dissemination to local, regional, and national media sources  
21 so that all may know and appreciate the foresight and contributions from anglers, the  
22 sportfishing industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the United States Fish and  
23 Wildlife Service on behalf of our nation's fisheries and aquatic resources.