

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 230

Designating the week of September 16 through September 23, 2017, as
“National Estuaries Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 24, 2017

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARPER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating the week of September 16 through September
23, 2017, as “National Estuaries Week”.

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States constitute a significant share of the economy of the United States, with as much as 43 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States generated in shore adjacent counties;

Whereas the population of shore adjacent counties in the United States increased by 39 percent from 1970 to 2010 and is projected to continue to increase;

Whereas not fewer than 2,100,000 jobs in the United States were supported by marine tourism and recreation in 2013;

Whereas the commercial and recreational fishing industries support over 1,600,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas, in 2015—

(1) commercial fish landings in the United States were valued at nearly \$5,300,000,000; and

(2) recreational anglers took nearly 61,000,000 salt-water fishing trips and spent \$28,700,000,000 on fishing trips and durable equipment;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including more than 68 percent of the commercial fish catch in the United States by value and 80 percent of the recreational fish catch in the United States by weight, as well as many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes and storms;

Whereas the United States had already lost more than 50 percent of the wetlands that existed in the 13 Colonies by the 1980s;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 27 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate or contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 16 through September 23, 2017, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State, local, and tribal government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) designates the week of September 16
2 through September 23, 2017, as “National Estu-
3 aries Week”;

4 (2) supports the goals and ideals of National
5 Estuaries Week;

6 (3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to
7 sustaining employment in the United States and the
8 economic well-being and prosperity of the United
9 States;

10 (4) recognizes that persistent threats under-
11 mine the health of the estuaries of the United
12 States;

13 (5) applauds the work of national and commu-
14 nity organizations and public partners that promote
15 public awareness, understanding, protection, and
16 restoration of estuaries;

17 (6) reaffirms the support of the Senate for es-
18 tuaries, including the scientific study, preservation,
19 protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

20 (7) expresses the intent of the Senate to con-
21 tinue working to understand, protect, and restore
22 the estuaries of the United States.

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