

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 277

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the policy of the United States at the 19th Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2002

Ms. SNOWE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the policy of the United States at the 19th Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization.

Whereas wild Atlantic salmon of both European stocks and those originating in North American rivers have experienced a sharp decline in numbers in recent years;

Whereas the return of these wild Atlantic salmon to the rivers of United States and Canada to spawn is necessary to continue the species' survival;

Whereas the United States is deeply concerned about the status of the last remaining stocks of wild Atlantic salmon returning to United States rivers and is committed to their protection and recovery;

Whereas this situation is so serious that the United States has closed all its Atlantic salmon fisheries and taken the critical step of listing populations of Atlantic salmon as endangered under the United States Endangered Species Act;

Whereas salmon originating in the State of Maine and in other New England salmon rivers migrate to the waters west of Greenland to feed where they can be subject to commercial harvest;

Whereas Atlantic salmon migrate throughout the Northern Atlantic and international cooperation is required to successfully conserve and protect these stocks;

Whereas scientific research and sampling programs to determine the origin of harvested Atlantic salmon are critical and necessary to better understanding and protecting the stocks;

Whereas in 1982 seven nations of the world adopted the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic which created the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization to promote conservation, restoration, enhancement, and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic through international co-operation; and

Whereas the United States cannot solve the difficulties facing United States origin salmon alone and the assistance of all Convention member nations is needed: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

4 (A) advocate the use of science in making
5 Atlantic salmon resource decisions and ensure
6 that any quota setting formula provides ade-
7 quate protection to those stocks originating in
8 the United States, Canada, and southern Eu-
9 rope that are now at considerable risk of extinc-
10 tion;

11 (B) remain firmly opposed to commercial
12 intercept fishing which takes wild Atlantic
13 Salmon of North American origin;

14 (C) support opportunities to create long-
15 term conservation agreements with other Con-
16 vention member nations:

17 (D) support adoption of a long-term re-
18 building goal and develop a plan for the recov-
19 ery of North American salmon;

20 (E) advocate the use of sampling programs
21 by all nations to determine the origin of har-
22 vested salmon; and

23 (2) the United States should make full use of
24 all appropriate diplomatic mechanisms, relevant
25 international laws and agreements, and other appro-

1 priate mechanisms to implement the goals set forth
2 in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1).

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