

This measure is somewhat different from other fish hatchery transfer bills in that it will convey about 6 acres of Federal lands not to the State, but to the city of Crawford, NE.

For nearly 62 years, this hatchery was used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nebraska State Game and Park Commission to produce millions of bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, various species of trout, and their eggs.

Unfortunately, in 1991, the Crawford National Fish Hatchery was severely damaged from flooding of the White River. The facilities were closed, no repairs were made, the buildings have not been maintained, and there is no likelihood that either the Federal or the State Government will reopen this hatchery in the future.

Furthermore, the hatchery is located in the middle of the city park. While the local community has spent a substantial amount of money to rebuild its park facilities, these efforts have been undermined by this unwanted, rapidly deteriorating, and increasingly dangerous fish hatchery.

H.R. 3287 will convey the hatchery property to the city of Crawford, which has made a commitment to restore and use certain buildings for various recreational activities. In addition, the bill contains the standard reversionary clause that requires the city of Crawford to return this property to the Federal Government, if it is used for anything other than the authorized purposes.

I urge an "aye" vote on this legislation and compliment BILL BARRETT for his outstanding leadership in this matter.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3287, a bill to transfer the old Crawford National Fish Hatchery to the city of Crawford. I'd also like to extend my thanks to Chairman SAXTON for his assistance with this bill, and the Lake Minatare legislation.

Crawford is a small town with approximately 1,300 residents in northwest Nebraska. It's a friendly town with large city park on its western city limit. However, within the boundaries of the city park is an abandoned fish hatchery.

In the 1920's Crawford granted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the rights to build a fish hatchery in the city park. It was successfully operated by the Service from 1929 to 1983. It was mainly used to breed trout. During the early 1980's, Federal financial support for the hatchery diminished, and the State Game and Parks Commission took over the operation and maintenance of the facility.

In 1991, the Game and Parks Commission completed construction of a new facility and prepared to close the Crawford site. Later that year, Crawford sustained heavy damage caused by a 100-year flood. The hatchery was severely damaged, and essentially destroyed. Currently, neither the Service nor the State operate the facility, and the ruined buildings continue to fall apart, creating an eyesore in the city park.

Due to the lack of interest in repairing the hatchery, the Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing to declare the property as excess to its needs and turn it over to the General Services Administration for disposition, with the recommendation that the property be returned to the city. Unfortunately, the disposition process is often slow, and, in the case of Crawford, the outcome may not be what the city desires.

In the regard, I introduced a bill, H.R. 3287, a transfer the property back to the city. The

city intends to restore some of the damaged buildings and use them for public meeting rooms. These improvements will greatly enhance the city park.

This action has the support of the city, the State Game and Parks Commission, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no more requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3287, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3287, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

WALHALLA NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3546) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Walhalla National Fish Hatchery to the State of South Carolina, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3546

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Walhalla National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF WALHALLA NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIREMENT.—Within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the State of South Carolina without reimbursement all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (b), for use by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources as part of the State of South Carolina fish culture program.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—The property referred to in subsection (a) is the property known as the Walhalla National Fish Hatchery, located on Indian Camp Creek and the East Fork of Chattooga River off of State Secondary Highway 325 in northern Oconee County, South Carolina, consisting of 76.2 acres (more or less), all improvements and related personal property under the control of the Secretary that is located on that property, including buildings, structures, and

equipment, and all easements, leases, and water rights relating to that property.

(c) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—If any of the property conveyed to the State of South Carolina under this section is used for any purpose other than the use authorized under subsection (a), all right, title, and interest in and to all property conveyed under this section shall revert to the United States. The State of South Carolina shall ensure that all property reverting to the United States under this subsection is in substantially the same or better condition as at the time of transfer to the State.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON].

(Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to take action on H.R. 3546, the Walhalla National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act.

H.R. 3546 was introduced by Congressman LINDSEY GRAHAM on May 29, 1996. Under the terms of this bill, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, within 180 days of enactment and without reimbursement, all right, title, and interest to the Walhalla Hatchery facility for use as a State hatchery. Furthermore, the proposal contains a reversionary clause that stipulates that the property will be returned to the Federal Government if it is used for something other than fishery resources management.

This facility is extremely important to the State of South Carolina because it is the only public source for brown trout; there is no reasonable alternative for stocking the State's waters; and without these fish, there is no viable sport fishing for trout. While privately produced trout are available, this option was explored and rejected because of lack of supply control, cost fluctuations, and the potential introduction of diseases.

I urge all Members to support this noncontroversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON], the distinguished subcommittee chairman, for his legislative stature. It is growing by the minute.

This is identical in its substances to the preceding bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3546, the Walhalla National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act, introduced by our colleague from South Carolina, LINDSEY GRAHAM.

This noncontroversial bill is nearly identical to measures the House of Representatives has approved to transfer certain Federal fish hatcheries to non-Federal control.

This hatchery, which consists of about 78 acres, is currently being operated by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources under a long-term agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This hatchery was 1 of 11 identified by the Clinton administration for transfer to the States in fiscal year 1996 because it is no longer an essential component of the Fish and Wildlife Service's nationwide stocking program.

Based on testimony the subcommittee received, however, it is clear that Walhalla is extremely important to the State of South Carolina because it is the only public source for brown trout, there is no reasonable alternative for stocking the State's waters, and, without these fish, there is no viable sport fishing for trout. There are 45,800 trout anglers in the State of South Carolina and this activity produces an annual economic impact of over \$12 million.

This bill contains language that stipulates the property will be returned to the Federal Government if it is used for something other than the authorized purposes.

I urge an "aye" vote on this legislation and compliment LINDSEY GRAHAM for his outstanding leadership in this matter.

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3546, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3546, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

MARION NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3557) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Marion National Fish Hatchery to the State of Alabama, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3557

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Marion National Fish Hatchery Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF MARION NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY AND CLAUDE HARRIS NATIONAL AQUACULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER TO THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIREMENT.—Within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the State of Alabama without reimbursement all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (b) for use by the Game and Fish Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as part of the State of Alabama fish culture program.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—The property referred to in subsection (a) consists of—

(1) that portion of the Marion National Fish Hatchery leased to the Alabama Game and Fish Division, located on State Highway 175 seven miles northeast of Marion, Alabama, as described in Amendment No. 2 to the Cooperative Agreement dated June 6, 1974, between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alabama, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Game and Fish Division, comprised of approximately 300 acres (more or less), and the Claude Harris National Aquacultural Research Center, located on State Highway 175 seven miles northeast of Marion, Alabama, as described in a United States Fish and Wildlife Service document entitled "EXHIBIT A" and dated March 19, 1996, comprised of approximately 298 acres (more or less);

(2) all improvements and related personal property under the control of the Secretary that is located on that property, including buildings, structures, equipment, and all easements and leases relating to that property; and

(3) all water rights relating to that property.

(c) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—If any of the property conveyed to the State of Alabama under this section is used for any purpose other than the use authorized under subsection (a), all right, title, and interest in and to all property conveyed under this section shall revert to the United States. The State of Alabama shall ensure that all property reverting to the United States under this subsection is in substantially the same or better condition as at the time of transfer to the State.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON].

(Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to discuss this bill, H.R. 3557, the Marion National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act. H.R. 3557 was introduced by Congressman EARL HILLIARD on May 30, 1996.

This bill is similar to measures that transferred the Corning, Fairport, and New London Fish Hatcheries to the States. Under the terms of this bill, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the State of Alabama, within 180 days of enactment and without reimbursement, all right, title, and interest to the Marion Hatchery. The facility will be used by the Game and Fish Di-

vision of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the State's fish culture program. The proposal also contains a reversionary clause that stipulates that the property will be returned to the Federal Government if it is used for something other than fishery resources management and fisheries-related activities.

In the most recent real estate assessment in 1994, the property was valued at \$465,000 and the structures have been assessed at \$1,062,000 according to the Realty Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The State has indicated that it has spent over \$2 million on facility improvements and renovations since it assumed operational control in 1974.

I urge all Members to support this noncontroversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, once again this is a bill without controversy, a transfer of a hatchery. We also have an amendment offered breathtakingly at the last moment by the distinguished gentleman from Alabama [Mr. HILLIARD] which caused a flurry of parliamentary frowns, though I trust no procedural nightmares have been elicited by the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. HILLIARD] to explain his amendment, so long as it is not too much.

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS] very much for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, to the Speaker, the minority leader and the majority leader, let me say that this is a bill with an amendment. The bill, in essence, seeks to transfer from the control of the Federal Government to the State of Alabama the Marion Fish Hatchery.

The amendment seeks to transfer from the Federal Government not only the Marion Fish Hatchery, but also the Marion Research Center. At the same time, the amendment renames the Marion Fish Hatchery the Claude Harris National Aquatic Research Center.

Claude Harris was my predecessor here. He worked tirelessly to put together the Marion Fish Hatchery and Research Center and we feel it would be fitting to name it after him.

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, in closing I note that the gentleman from New Jersey is apparently in possession of the pen that the President will use to sign the extension of the Magnuson Act when the time comes.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3557, the Marion National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act, introduced by our colleague from Alabama, EARL HILLIARD.

The legislation will transfer the 300 acres that comprise the Marion Hatchery to the State of Alabama. This facility has been effectively operated by the Alabama Game and Fish Division for over 20 years and during that