

acres, the home and grounds now occupy 3.4 acres. The property has been designated a national historic landmark. In 1991, the National Park Service completed a suitability and a feasibility study of the Thomas Cole property.

□ 1445

Legislation dealing with the Thomas Cole property has been around since the early 1900s. Hearings were held on a nearly identical bill, H.R. 1301, in the 105th Congress. That legislation was favorably reported by the Committee on Resources, passed the House last September, but unfortunately, action was not completed on the measure prior to adjournment.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Resources adopted a minor amendment to H.R. 658 that made a clarifying change requested by the National Park Service. We believe this is a good change in the bill, and support the bill. I do urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Again, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) for his management of this legislation.

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

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY).

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), for bringing up this legislation, and also thanking the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG) of the Committee on Rules, the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the ranking member, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ), and my friends on the other side for their assistance here.

This legislation, as has been said, Mr. Speaker, would allow the Greene County Historical Society to remain as owners and operators of the Thomas Cole House while establishing the site as an affiliated area of the national park system.

Essentially what this legislation does, it allows for the historical society to develop interpretive programs related to the facility. It also requires an annual general management plan by the historical society. Both of these things I think are very important to the continued health and welfare of the Thomas Cole House.

I am a strong supporter of preserving our national historical sites generally, and specifically here as it relates to the Thomas Cole House. The circumstances of the Thomas Cole House make this an important piece of legislation, given its age. It is a true national treasure in the heart of one of the most scenic areas of the Nation, New York's Hudson River Valley.

As has been stated, Thomas Cole was one of the country's preeminent landscape painters in the earlier 19th cen-

tury. His work inspired generations of artists, including Frederick Church and Thomas Moran, to chronicle the growth of the young United States and help to generate interest in our country's natural beauty.

Today the paintings provide insight and reflect the growth of what is the uniquely American spirit. In passing this legislation, we will preserve this school of art and the very residence Thomas Cole worked from within in creating many of his paintings, as well as the landscapes these artists painted of the beautiful Hudson River Valley.

Last year the legislation passed the House. It was not passed by the Senate point. That was because there was some language in the bill that the Senate objected to regarding the purchase by the Secretary of the Interior of the paintings and artwork. We have revised that and made amendments to make that language more palatable. I am confident that the Senate will pass it this year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the committee and the National Park Service for their assistance, as well as the local organizations in my district who worked strenuously to see this bill passed, and who worked as a partnership to ensure the continuation of the Thomas Cole House. I look forward to seeing the Thomas Cole site become an important addition to the National Park Service.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation that will provide the Thomas Cole National Historic Site with appropriate federal recognition and assistance. It is appropriate because Thomas Cole continues to be a major figure in our nation's history, and an important influence on many Americans who would not recognize his name.

As founder of the Hudson River School of American Painting, Thomas Cole stood at the beginning of a long line of artists who taught Americans to love and appreciate dramatic landscapes. It is hard for us now to imagine a time when places like the Hudson Highlands, the Grand Canyon, and the mountain peaks of the east and west were not treasured, but that was largely the case before Thomas Cole's time. They were regarded as obstacles or places of danger. His paintings showed people they were beautiful; his allegories invested them with meaning. If it were not for Thomas Cole, we might not have our national parks today; we would almost certainly not have our long tradition of landscape art.

I hope this legislation will enable more people to learn about Thomas Cole and his followers and the history of how our people came to appreciate the beauty of nature and the landscape. I further hope it will bring more people to the Hudson Valley that Cole loved and painted, and educate them about the role that the Hudson Valley—through its natural features, its people, and its history—has had in defining our country's vision of itself.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion

offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 658, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

FISHERMAN'S PROTECTIVE ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1651) to amend the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967 to extend the period during which reimbursement may be provided to owners of United States fishing vessels for costs incurred when such a vessel is seized and detained by a foreign country, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1651

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

TITLE I—EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR REIMBURSEMENT UNDER FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT OF 1967

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Fishermen's Protective Act Amendments of 1999".

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR REIMBURSEMENT UNDER FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT OF 1967.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(e) of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 (22 U.S.C. 1977(e)) is amended by striking "2000" and inserting "2003".

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 7(a)(3) of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 (22 U.S.C. 1977(a)(3)) is amended by striking "Secretary of the Interior" and inserting "Secretary of Commerce".

TITLE II—YUKON RIVER SALMON

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Yukon River Salmon Act of 1999".

SEC. 202. YUKON RIVER SALMON PANEL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be a Yukon River Salmon Panel (in this title referred to as the "Panel").

(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Panel shall—

(A) advise the Secretary of State regarding the negotiation of any international agreement with Canada relating to management of salmon stocks originating from the Yukon River in Canada;

(B) advise the Secretary of the Interior regarding restoration and enhancement of such salmon stocks; and

(C) perform other functions relating to conservation and management of such salmon stocks as authorized by this or any other title.

(3) DESIGNATION AS UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES ON BILATERAL BODY.—The Secretary of State may designate the members of the Panel to be the United States representatives on any successor to the panel established by the interim agreement for the conservation of salmon stocks originating

from the Yukon River in Canada agreed to through an exchange of notes between the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada on February 3, 1995, if authorized by any agreement establishing such successor.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Panel shall be comprised of six members, as follows:

(A) One member who is an official of the United States Government with expertise in salmon conservation and management, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of State.

(B) One member who is an official of the State of Alaska with expertise in salmon conservation and management, who shall be appointed by the Governor of Alaska.

(C) Four members who are knowledgeable and experienced with regard to the salmon fisheries on the Yukon River, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of State in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) APPOINTEES FROM ALASKA.—(A) The Secretary of State shall appoint the members under paragraph (1)(C) from a list of at least 3 individuals nominated for each position by the Governor of Alaska.

(B) In making the nominations, the Governor of Alaska may consider suggestions for nominations provided by organizations with expertise in Yukon River salmon fisheries.

(C) The Governor of Alaska may make appropriate nominations to allow for appointment of, and the Secretary of State shall appoint, under paragraph (1)(C)—

(i) at least one member who is qualified to represent the interests of Lower Yukon River fishing districts; and

(ii) at least one member who is qualified to represent the interests of Upper Yukon River fishing districts.

(D) At least one of the members appointed under paragraph (1)(C) shall be an Alaska Native.

(3) ALTERNATES.—(A) The Secretary of State may designate an alternate Panel member for each Panel member the Secretary appoints under paragraphs (1) (A) and (C), who meets the same qualifications, to serve in the absence of the Panel member.

(B) The Governor of the State of Alaska may designate an alternative Panel member for the Panel member appointed under subsection (b)(1)(B), who meets the same qualifications, to serve in the absence of that Panel member.

(c) TERM LENGTH.—Panel members and alternate Panel members shall serve four-year terms. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of any term shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.

(d) REAPPOINTMENT.—Panel members and alternate Panel members shall be eligible for reappointment.

(e) DECISIONS.—Decisions of the Panel shall be made by the consensus of the Panel members appointed under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(1).

(f) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out their functions, Panel members may consult with such other interested parties as they consider appropriate.

SEC. 203. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) APPOINTMENTS.—The Governor of Alaska may establish and appoint an advisory committee of not less than 8, but not more than 12, individuals who are knowledgeable and experienced with regard to the salmon fisheries on the Yukon River. At least 2 of the advisory committee members shall be Alaska Natives. Members of the advisory committee may attend all meetings of the Panel, and shall be given the opportunity to examine and be heard on any matter under consideration by the Panel.

(b) COMPENSATION.—The members of such advisory committee shall receive no compensation for their services.

(c) TERM LENGTH.—Members of such advisory committee shall serve two-year terms. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of any term shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.

(d) REAPPOINTMENT.—Members of such advisory committee shall be eligible for reappointment.

SEC. 204. EXEMPTION.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Panel or to an advisory committee established under section 203.

SEC. 205. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.

(a) RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game shall be the responsible management entity for the United States for the purposes of any agreement with Canada regarding management of salmon stocks originating from the Yukon River in Canada.

(b) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—The designation under subsection (a) shall not be considered to expand, diminish, or otherwise change the management authority of the State of Alaska or the Federal Government with respect to fishery resources.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS OF PANEL.—In addition to recommendations made by the Panel to the responsible management entities in accordance with any agreement with Canada regarding management of salmon stocks originating from the Yukon River in Canada, the Panel may make recommendations concerning the conservation and management of salmon originating in the Yukon River to the Department of the Interior, the Department of Commerce, the Department of State, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and other Federal or State entities as appropriate. Recommendations by the Panel shall be advisory in nature.

SEC. 206. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

(a) COMPENSATION.—Panel members and alternate Panel members who are not State or Federal employees shall receive compensation at the daily rate of GS-15 of the General Schedule when engaged in the actual performance of duties.

(b) TRAVEL AND OTHER NECESSARY EXPENSES.—Travel and other necessary expenses shall be paid by the Secretary of the Interior for all Panel members, alternate Panel members, and members of any advisory committee established under section 203 when engaged in the actual performance of duties.

(c) TREATMENT AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Except for officials of the United States Government, all Panel members, alternate Panel members, and members of any advisory committee established under section 203 shall not be considered to be Federal employees while engaged in the actual performance of duties, except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, and chapter 71 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 207. YUKON RIVER SALMON STOCK RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, may carry out projects to restore or enhance salmon stocks originating from the Yukon River in Canada and the United States.

(b) COOPERATION WITH CANADA.—If there is in effect an agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada for the conservation of salmon stocks originating from the Yukon River in Canada that includes provisions governing projects authorized under this section, then—

(1) projects under this section shall be carried out in accordance with that agreement; and

(2) amounts available for projects under this section—

(A) shall be expended in accordance with the agreement; and

(B) may be deposited in any joint account established by the agreement to fund such projects.

SEC. 208. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out this title \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, of which—

(1) such sums as are necessary shall be available each fiscal year for travel expenses of Panel members, alternate Panel members, United States members of the Joint Technical Committee established by paragraph C.2 of the memorandum of understanding concerning the Pacific Salmon Treaty between the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada (recorded January 28, 1985), and members of an advisory committee established and appointed under section 203, in accordance with Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) such sums as are necessary shall be available for the United States share of expenses incurred by the Joint Technical Committee and any panel established by any agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada for restoration and enhancement of salmon originating in Canada;

(3) up to \$3,000,000 shall be available each fiscal year for activities by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce for survey, restoration, and enhancement activities related to salmon stocks originating from the Yukon River in Canada, of which up to \$1,200,000 shall be available each fiscal year for Yukon River salmon stock restoration and enhancement projects under section 207(b); and

(4) \$600,000 shall be available each fiscal year for cooperative salmon research and management projects in the portion of the Yukon River drainage located in the United States that are recommended by the Panel.

TITLE III—FISHERY INFORMATION ACQUISITION

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Fisheries Survey Vessel Authorization Act of 1999”.

SEC. 302. ACQUISITION OF FISHERY SURVEY VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, may in accordance with this section acquire, by purchase, lease, lease-purchase, or charter, and equip up to 6 fishery survey vessels in accordance with this section.

(b) VESSEL REQUIREMENTS.—Any vessel acquired and equipped under this section must—

(1) be capable of—

(A) staying at sea continuously for at least 30 days;

(B) conducting fishery population surveys using hydroacoustic, longlining, deep water, and pelagic trawls, and other necessary survey techniques; and

(C) conducting other work necessary to provide fishery managers with the accurate and timely data needed to prepare and implement fishery management plans; and

(2) have a hull that meets the International Council for Exploration of the Sea standard regarding acoustic quietness.

(c) AUTHORIZATION.—To carry out this section there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$60,000,000.

Amend the title so as to read: “To amend the Fishermen’s Protective

Act of 1967 to extend the period during which reimbursement may be provided to owners of United States fishing vessels for costs incurred when such a vessel is seized and detained by a foreign country, and for other purposes.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

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

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1651 is a package of noncontroversial bills that should pass this body without much debate.

The first title amends the Fisherman’s Protective Act to extend the period of time during which reimbursements may be provided to owners of U.S. fishing vessel for costs incurred when a vessel is illegally seized and detained by a foreign country. The time period is extended from October 1, 2000, to October 1, 2003.

The second title, the Yukon River Salmon Act of 1999, establishes the Yukon River Salmon Panel, which will advise the Secretary of State regarding negotiations on any international agreement with Canada relating to the management of salmon stocks originating from the Yukon River.

In addition, the panel will advise the Secretary of the Interior and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game regarding restoration and enhancement of Yukon River salmon.

In 1995, Congress passed the Yukon River Salmon Act as part of the Fisheries Act of 1995. This Act created the Yukon River Salmon Panel, as required in the interim agreement between the United States and Canada for the conservation of Yukon River salmon stocks originating in Canada.

This interim agreement expired in March of 1998. The expiration of the interim agreement has made the role of the Yukon Salmon Panel unclear. This legislation authorizes the panel and its activities, regardless of the agreement with Canada. If a new agreement cannot be reached between United States and Canada, the Secretary of State is authorized to appoint the advisory panel members to any panel created by the new agreement. The authorized appropriations in this title have been capped at the level authorized in 1995.

The third title to the bill authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to acquire and equip a fishery survey vessel. This new vessel will provide fishery managers with accurate and timely data necessary to implement the fishery management plans and to meet international treaty obligations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for an aye vote on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to initially commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), the chairman of our Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, and as the ranking member of that subcommittee, again I want to thank the gentleman for his leadership and for his ability to bring these pieces of legislation under a substitute format.

I also want to thank the chairman of our Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), and the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER), our ranking Democrat, for their support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the three fisheries-related bills included in the substitute amendment that will be offered are noncontroversial and have the full support of the administration. Thus, I do urge that the substitute be adopted by my colleagues.

I am particularly pleased this bill will authorize funding to construct a fisheries research vessel. The fleet of research vessels operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Mr. Speaker, is aging. Without modern vessels, NOAA will be unable to obtain accurate data on fish stocks and oceanographic conditions, and thus will compromise the Administration’s ability to manage our Nation’s fisheries as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act and several international treaties.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will authorize funds for one vessel. I look forward to working with the chairman of the Committee on Resources to authorize funds in future years to modernize NOAA’s fishing research fleet, not only for ships in Alaska, but throughout our Nation’s waters, so our administration can gather the best data possible to fulfill its statutory obligations and successfully manage our \$3 billion annual commercial fishing industry.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to thank the gentleman from American Samoa, the ranking member of the subcommittee, for his great work in support in getting this bill to the floor. It is much appreciated.

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. 1651, 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.

The title was amended so as to read:

“To amend the Fishermen’s Protective Act of 1967 to extend the period during which reimbursement may be provided to owners of United States fishing vessels for costs incurred when such a vessel is seized and detained by a foreign country, and for other purposes.”

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. 1651, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

BIKINI RESETTLEMENT AND RELOCATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2368) to assist in the resettlement and relocation of the people of Bikini Atoll by amending the terms of the trust fund established during the United States administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2368

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 “Bikini Resettlement and Relocation Act of 1999”.

SEC. 2. PARTIAL DISTRIBUTION OF TRUST FUND AMOUNTS.

Three percent of the market value as of June 1, 1999, of the Resettlement Trust Fund for the People of Bikini, established pursuant to Public Law 97-257, shall be made available for immediate ex gratia distribution to the people of Bikini, provided such distribution does not reduce the corpus of the trust fund. The amount of such distribution shall be deducted from any additional ex gratia payments that may be made by the Congress into the Resettlement Trust Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

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

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

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2368, the Bikini Resettlement and Relocation Act of 1999 is an important