

Title II establishes a panel to advise the Secretaries of State and the Interior of the Yukon River salmon management issues in Alaska. The U.S. and Canada had an interim agreement regarding management of the salmon stocks of mutual interests in the Yukon River, but the agreement expired in March of 1998. When the interim agreement expired, it was unclear whether the advisory panel was still authorized to recommend salmon restoration measures.

This bill codifies the Yukon River Salmon Panel and authorizes the panel to advise the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Interior on the management, enhancement, and restoration of Yukon River salmon stocks and perform other activities that relate to the conservation and management of the Yukon River salmon stocks.

Finally, Title III authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to acquire, purchase, lease, lease-purchase, or charter and equip up to six fishery survey vessels. These vessels are one of the most important fishery management tools available to Federal scientists. Because they conduct a vast majority of fishery stock surveys, their reliability is critical to fishery management. The information obtained using them is critical for the improvement of regulations governing fisheries management.

This bill is virtually identical to the measure that overwhelmingly passed the House last year; however, it does not include the extraneous measure added in the other body dealing with the harvest of bluefin tuna using spotter planes in the North Atlantic. This is a good conservation bill, and I urge an aye vote on this measure.

Mr. Speaker, 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 rise in support of H.R. 1651, which was passed by the House last year. As my colleague and dear friend from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) on the other side of the aisle has explained it, this bill contains several provisions intended to improve fisheries conservation, management, and data collection.

It was approved unanimously by the Senate, the other body, last month; and I do urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 579.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PACIFIC SALMON RECOVERY ACT

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2798) to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to provide financial assistance to the States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California for salmon habitat restoration projects in coastal waters and upland drainages, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2798

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 "Pacific Salmon Recovery Act".

SEC. 2. SALMON CONSERVATION AND SALMON HABITAT RESTORATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Commerce shall provide financial assistance in accordance with this Act to qualified States and qualified tribal governments for salmon conservation and salmon habitat restoration activities.

(b) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts available to provide assistance under this section each fiscal year (after the application of section 3(g)), the Secretary—

(1) shall allocate 85 percent among qualified States, in equal amounts; and

(2) shall allocate 15 percent among qualified tribal governments, in amounts determined by the Secretary.

(c) TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promptly transfer in a lump sum—

(A) to a qualified State that has submitted a Conservation and Restoration Plan under section 3(a) amounts allocated to the qualified State under subsection (b)(1) of this section, unless the Secretary determines, within 30 days after the submittal of the plan to the Secretary, that the plan is inconsistent with the requirements of this Act; and

(B) to a qualified tribal government that has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary under section 3(b) amounts allocated to the qualified tribal government under subsection (b)(2) of this section.

(2) TRANSFERS TO QUALIFIED STATES.—The Secretary shall make the transfer under paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) to the Washington State Salmon Recovery Board, in the case of amounts allocated to Washington;

(B) to the Oregon State Watershed Enhancement Board, in the case of amounts allocated to Oregon;

(C) to the California Department of Fish and Game for the California Coastal Salmon Recovery Program, in the case of amounts allocated to California;

(D) to the Governor of Alaska, in the case of amounts allocated to Alaska; and

(E) to the Office of Species Conservation, in the case of amounts allocated to Idaho.

(d) REALLOCATION.—

(1) AMOUNTS ALLOCATED TO QUALIFIED STATES.—Amounts that are allocated to a qualified State for a fiscal year shall be reallocated under subsection (b)(1) among the other qualified States, if—

(A) the qualified State has not submitted a plan in accordance with section 3(a) as of the end of the fiscal year; or

(B) the amounts remain unobligated at the end of the subsequent fiscal year.

(2) AMOUNTS ALLOCATED TO QUALIFIED TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—Amounts that are allocated to a qualified tribal government for a fiscal year shall be reallocated under subsection (b)(2) among the other qualified tribal governments, if the qualified tribal government has not entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary in accordance with section 3(b) as of the end of the fiscal year.

SEC. 3. RECEIPT AND USE OF ASSISTANCE.

(a) QUALIFIED STATE SALMON CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive assistance under this Act, a qualified State shall develop and submit to the Secretary a Salmon Conservation and Salmon Habitat Restoration Plan.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each Salmon Conservation and Salmon Restoration Plan shall, at a minimum—

(A) be consistent with other applicable Federal laws;

(B) be consistent with the goal of salmon recovery;

(C) except as provided in subparagraph (D), give priority to use of assistance under this section for projects that—

(i) provide a direct and demonstrable benefit to salmon or their habitat;

(ii) provide the greatest benefit to salmon conservation and salmon habitat restoration relative to the cost of the projects; and

(iii) conserve, and restore habitat, for—

(I) salmon that are listed as endangered species or threatened species, proposed for such listing, or candidates for such listing, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

(II) salmon that are given special protection under the laws or regulations of the qualified State;

(D) in the case of a plan submitted by a qualified State in which, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, there is no area at which a salmon species referred to in subparagraph (C)(iii)(I) spawns—

(i) give priority to use of assistance for projects referred to in subparagraph (C)(i) and (ii) that contribute to proactive programs to conserve and enhance species of salmon that intermingle with, or are otherwise related to, species referred to in subparagraph (C)(iii)(I), which may include (among other matters)—

(I) salmon-related research, data collection, and monitoring;

(II) salmon supplementation and enhancement;

(III) salmon habitat restoration;

(IV) increasing economic opportunities for salmon fishermen; and

(V) national and international cooperative habitat programs; and

(ii) provide for revision of the plan within one year after any date on which any salmon species that spawns in the qualified State is listed as an endangered species or threatened species, proposed for such listing, or a candidate for such listing, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(E) establish specific goals and timelines for activities funded with such assistance;

(F) include measurable criteria by which such activities may be evaluated;

(G) require that activities carried out with such assistance shall—

(i) be scientifically based;

(ii) be cost effective;

(iii) not be conducted on private land except with the consent of the owner of the land; and

(iv) contribute to the conservation and recovery of salmon;

(H) require that the qualified State maintain its aggregate expenditures of funds from non-Federal sources for salmon habitat restoration programs at or above the average level of such expenditures in the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of enactment of this Act; and

(I) ensure that activities funded under this Act are conducted in a manner in which, and in areas where, the State has determined that they will have long-term benefits.

(3) SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS.—In preparing a plan under this subsection a qualified State shall seek comments on the plan from local governments in the qualified State.

(b) TRIBAL MOU WITH SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive assistance under this Act, a qualified tribal government shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary regarding use of the assistance.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each memorandum of understanding shall, at a minimum—

(A) be consistent with other applicable Federal laws;

(B) be consistent with the goal of salmon recovery;

(C) give priority to use of assistance under this Act for activities that—

(i) provide a direct and demonstrable benefit to salmon or their habitat;

(ii) provide the greatest benefit to salmon conservation and salmon habitat restoration relative to the cost of the projects; and

(iii) conserve, and restore habitat, for—

(I) salmon that are listed as endangered species or threatened species, proposed for such listing, or candidates for such listing, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

(II) salmon that are given special protection under the ordinances or regulations of the qualified tribal government;

(D) in the case of a memorandum of understanding entered into by a qualified tribal government for an area in which, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, there is no area at which a salmon species that is referred to in subparagraph (C)(iii)(I) spawns—

(i) give priority to use of assistance for projects referred to in subparagraph (C)(i) and (ii) that contribute to proactive programs described in subsection (a)(2)(D)(i);

(ii) include a requirement that the memorandum shall be revised within one year after any date on which any salmon species that spawns in the area is listed as an endangered species or threatened species, proposed for such listing, or a candidate for such listing, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(E) establish specific goals and timelines for activities funded with such assistance;

(F) include measurable criteria by which such activities may be evaluated;

(G) establish specific requirements for reporting to the Secretary by the qualified tribal government;

(H) require that activities carried out with such assistance shall—

(i) be scientifically based;

(ii) be cost effective;

(iii) not be conducted on private land except with the consent of the owner of the land; and

(iv) contribute to the conservation or recovery of salmon; and

(I) require that the qualified tribal government maintain its aggregate expenditures of funds from non-Federal sources for salmon habitat restoration programs at or above the average level of such expenditures in the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Assistance under this Act may be used by a qualified State in accordance with a plan submitted by the State under subsection (a), or by a qualified tribal government in accordance with a memorandum of understanding entered into by the government under subsection (b), to carry out or make grants to carry out, among other activities, the following:

(A) Watershed evaluation, assessment, and planning necessary to develop a site-specific and clearly prioritized plan to implement watershed improvements, including for making multi-year grants.

(B) Salmon-related research, data collection, and monitoring, salmon supplementation and enhancement, and salmon habitat restoration.

(C) Maintenance and monitoring of projects completed with such assistance.

(D) Technical training and education projects, including teaching private landowners about practical means of improving land and water management practices to contribute to the conservation and restoration of salmon habitat.

(E) Other activities related to salmon conservation and salmon habitat restoration.

(2) USE FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL PROJECTS.—Funds allocated to qualified States under this Act shall be used for local and regional projects.

(d) USE OF ASSISTANCE FOR ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF JURISDICTION OF RECIPIENT.—Assistance under this section provided to a qualified State or qualified tribal government may be used for activities conducted outside the areas under its jurisdiction if the activity will provide conservation benefits to naturally produced salmon in streams of concern to the qualified State or qualified tribal government, respectively.

(e) COST SHARING BY QUALIFIED STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A qualified State shall match, in the aggregate, the amount of any financial assistance provided to the qualified State for a fiscal year under this Act, in the form of monetary contributions or in-kind contributions of services for projects carried out with such assistance. For purposes of this paragraph, monetary contributions by the State shall not be considered to include funds received from other Federal sources.

(2) LIMITATION ON REQUIRING MATCHING FOR EACH PROJECT.—The Secretary may not require a qualified State to provide matching funds for each project carried out with assistance under this Act.

(3) TREATMENT OF MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS.—For purposes of subsection (a)(2)(H), the amount of monetary contributions by a qualified State under this subsection shall be treated as expenditures from non-Federal sources for salmon conservation and salmon habitat restoration programs.

(f) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each qualified State and each qualified tribal government receiving assistance under this Act is encouraged to carefully coordinate salmon conservation activities of its agencies to eliminate duplicative and overlapping activities.

(2) CONSULTATION.—Each qualified State and qualified tribal government receiving assistance under this Act shall consult with the Secretary to ensure there is no duplication in projects funded under this Act.

(g) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

(1) FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amount made available under this Act each fiscal year, not more than 1 percent may be used by the Secretary for administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this Act.

(2) STATE AND TRIBAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amount allocated under this Act to a qualified State or qualified tribal

government each fiscal year, not more than 3 percent may be used by the qualified State or qualified tribal government, respectively, for administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this Act.

SEC. 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

(a) QUALIFIED STATE GOVERNMENTS.—Each qualified State seeking assistance under this Act shall establish a citizens advisory committee or provide another similar forum for local governments and the public to participate in obtaining and using the assistance.

(b) QUALIFIED TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—Each qualified tribal government receiving assistance under this Act shall hold public meetings to receive recommendations on the use of the assistance.

SEC. 5. CONSULTATION NOT REQUIRED.

Consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) shall not be required based solely on the provision of financial assistance under this Act.

SEC. 6. REPORTS.

(a) QUALIFIED STATES.—Each qualified State shall, by not later than December 31 of each year, submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives an annual report on the use of financial assistance received by the qualified State under this Act. The report shall contain an evaluation of the success of this Act in meeting the criteria listed in section 3(a)(2).

(b) SECRETARY.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING QUALIFIED TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—The Secretary shall, by not later than December 31 of each year, submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives an annual report on the use of financial assistance received by qualified tribal governments under this Act. The report shall contain an evaluation of the success of this Act in meeting the criteria listed in section 3(b)(2).

(2) BIENNIAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall, by not later than December 31 of the second year in which amounts are available to carry out this Act, and of every second year thereafter, submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a biennial report on the use of funds allocated to qualified States under this Act. The report shall review programs funded by the States and evaluate the success of this Act in meeting the criteria listed in section 3(a)(2).

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given that term in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

(2) QUALIFIED STATE.—The term “qualified State” means each of the States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho.

(3) QUALIFIED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “qualified tribal government” means—

(A) a tribal government of an Indian tribe in Washington, Oregon, California, or Idaho that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, determines—

(i) is involved in salmon management and recovery activities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(ii) has the management and organizational capability to maximize the benefits of assistance provided under this Act; and

(B) an Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims

Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, determines—

(i) is involved in salmon conservation and management; and

(ii) has the management and organizational capability to maximize the benefits of assistance provided under this Act.

(4) SALMON.—The term “salmon” means any naturally produced salmon or naturally produced trout of the following species:

(A) Coho salmon (*oncorhynchus kisutch*).

(B) Chinook salmon (*oncorhynchus tshawytscha*).

(C) Chum salmon (*oncorhynchus keta*).

(D) Pink salmon (*oncorhynchus gorbuscha*).

(E) Sockeye salmon (*oncorhynchus nerka*).

(F) Steelhead trout (*oncorhynchus mykiss*).

(G) Sea-run cutthroat trout (*oncorhynchus clarki clarki*).

(H) For purposes of application of this Act in Oregon—

(i) Lahontan cutthroat trout (*oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*); and

(ii) Bull trout (*salvelinus confluentus*).

(I) For purposes of application of this Act in Washington and Idaho, Bull trout (*salvelinus confluentus*).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term Secretary means the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 8. PACIFIC SALMON TREATY.

(a) TRANSBOUNDARY PANEL REPRESENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3632) is amended by redesignating subsections (f), (g), and (h) in order as subsections (g), (h), and (i), and by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) TRANSBOUNDARY PANEL.—The United States shall be represented on the transboundary Panel by 7 Panel members, of whom—

“(1) 1 shall be an official of the United States Government with salmon fishery management responsibility and expertise;

“(2) 1 shall be an official of the State of Alaska with salmon fishery management responsibility and expertise; and

“(3) 5 shall be individuals knowledgeable and experienced in the salmon fisheries for which the transboundary Panel is responsible.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Subsection (g) of section 3 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3632), as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking “and (e)(2)” and inserting “(e)(2), and (f)(2)”;

(ii) by striking “and (e)(4)” and inserting “(e)(4), and (f)(3)”;

(iii) by striking “The appointing authorities listed above” and inserting “For the southern, northern, and Frazier River Panels, the appointing authorities listed above”.

(B) Subsection (h)(2) of section 3 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3632), as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection, is amended by striking “and southern” and inserting “, southern, and transboundary”.

(C) Section 9 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3638) is amended by striking “9(g)” and inserting “9(h)”.

(b) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES ON NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FUND COMMITTEES.—

(1) COMPENSATION.—Section 11 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3640) is amended by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) in order as subsections (d) and (e), and by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) COMPENSATION FOR REPRESENTATIVES ON NORTHERN FUND AND SOUTHERN FUND COMMITTEES.—United States Representatives on the Pacific Salmon Treaty Northern Fund Committee and Southern Fund Committee who are not State or Federal employees shall receive compensation at the minimum daily rate of pay payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, when engaged in the actual performance of duties for the United States Section or for the Commission.”.

(2) EXPENSES.—Subsection (d) of such section, as so redesignated, is amended by inserting “members of the Northern Fund Committee, members of the Southern Fund Committee,” after “Joint Technical Committee.”.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 11 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 5332) is amended—

(i) in subsection (a) by striking “at the daily rate of GS-18 of the General Schedule” and inserting “at the maximum daily rate of pay payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code,”; and

(ii) in subsection (b) by striking “at the daily rate of GS-16 of the General Schedule” and inserting “at the minimum daily rate of pay payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code.”.

(B) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subparagraph (A) shall not apply to Commissioners, Alternate Commissioners, Panel Members, and Alternate Panel Members (as those terms are used in section 11 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985) appointed before the effective date of this subsection.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 623 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000, as enacted by section 1000(a)(1), Division B of Public Law 106-113 (16 U.S.C. 3645) is redesignated and moved so as to be section 16 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended to read as follows:

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For capitalizing the Northern Fund and Southern Fund established under the 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement and related agreements, there are authorized to be appropriated a total of \$75,000,000 for the Northern Fund and a total of \$65,000,000 for the Southern Fund for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, for the implementation of those agreements.”.

SEC. 9. TREATMENT OF INTERNATIONAL FISHERY COMMISSION PENSIONERS.

For United States citizens who served as employees of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission and the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (in this section referred to as the “Commissions”) and who worked in Canada in the course of employment with those commissions, the President shall—

(1) calculate the difference in amount between the valuation of the Commissions’ annuity for each employee’s payment in United States currency and in Canadian currency for past and future (as determined by an actuarial valuation) annuity payments; and

(2) out of existing funds available for this purpose, pay each employee a lump-sum payment in the total amount determined under paragraph (1) to compensate each employee for past and future benefits resulting from the exchange rate inequity.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated \$200,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2001, 2002, and 2003 to carry out this Act. Funds appropriated under this section may remain until expended.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. 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. 2798, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering H.R. 2798, a bill that authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to provide financial assistance to qualified States and tribal governments for salmon conservation and habitat restoration activities. The qualified States include Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The tribal government from each State is also eligible to participate in the program.

Mr. Speaker, the bill authorizes \$200 million to be apportioned to the States and tribes for activities that will protect salmon or restore salmon habitat.

While the Federal Government has spent millions of dollars on salmon restoration, the efforts have been successful.

This bill will direct funds to the State and local projects where the money will do the most good. The States are required to match the Federal funds reported annually to Congress on the use of the funds and their consistency with the act.

The Secretary reports annually to Congress on the tribal governments’ use of the funds and every 2 years on each States use of the funds. Administrative uses of the funds are capped at 3 percent for the States and tribes, and 1 percent for the Secretary.

The bill clarifies that the funds be given to the States in a lump sum and allows the States of Washington and Idaho to use funds for habitat restoration and conservation of endangered bull trout in addition to salmon.

In addition, the bill includes language authorizing the Northern and Southern funds for the Pacific Salmon Treaty. These funds were created last year when the U.S. and Canada came to an agreement on a 10-year management scheme for salmon species covered under the treaty.

The 1999 agreement also created a transboundary panel under the treaty; and this bill creates that panel, authorizes its participants and allows them to be compensated for time spent working on the panel.

Finally, the bill includes a section that allows the commissioners to the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries

Commission and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission to get a review of their pension. These individuals are U.S. citizens and have been paid in Canadian dollars and have been harmed by the differences in the exchange rate.

This bill would allow for review in a lump sum payment out of existing funds if an inequity has occurred.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important conservation bill and will do a great deal to conserve salmon and restore salmon habitat in the Northwest, and I urge an aye vote on the legislation.

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

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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 rise in strong support of H.R. 2798, the Pacific Salmon Recovery Act introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON). I know that the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) gladly would have been here to offer his statement of support, but those of us from the most western part of the United States find it very difficult to make our flights on time on a day like Monday, but I am sure that he would have been happy to be here to present his statement in support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as many Members of the House are aware, salmon are an important part of the economy of the West Coast of the United States and are fished both commercially and recreationally. They are also very important to tribal custom and tradition, and their decline in the past decade has been widely felt throughout the region.

Already 25 varieties of salmon in the Pacific Northwest in California have been listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, and more listings are very likely to occur. The causes of this decline are many, but can be predominantly attributed to habitat loss, water diversions, and river alteration.

Mr. Speaker, restoration of salmon stocks will be difficult and the work to restore habitats and modify water uses can only be successful with the full participation of State and local governments. For that reason, the States and the administration support a coast-wide salmon recovery effort to be implemented by the States and the coastal tribes. Approximately \$58 million was appropriated in this effort last year and the House Committee on Appropriations has allocated additional funding this year contingent upon an authorization.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2798 would provide that authorization. It has broad bipartisan support of the States, the administration, and fishing and conservation groups, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on this legislation, and I appreciate the gentleman from American Samoa for helping out with this legislation.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the H.R. 2798, the Pacific Salmon Recovery Act.

My northern California district comprises several hundred miles of coastline and a large proportion of our State's salmon fisheries. However, decades of water diversions, dam building, poor industrial practices, and urban development have had a terrible impact on the rivers and streams of the Pacific Northwest.

While salmon are still an integral part of the culture of my district, the fish stocks themselves are in a state of collapse.

Twenty-six distinct population segments of Pacific salmon and sea-run trout are listed as either endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Trinity River system alone has lost more than 80 percent of its King Salmon and more than 60 percent of its Steelhead Trout over the past 50 years.

As recently as 1988, sport and commercial salmon fishing in the Pacific region generated more than \$1.25 billion for the regional economy.

Since then, salmon fishing closures have contributed to the loss of nearly 80 percent of this region's job base, with a total salmon industry loss over the past 30 years of approximately 72,000 family wage jobs.

Today, at least 80 percent of the salmon caught commercially in the Pacific Northwest and northern California each year come, not from wild populations, but from hatchery stocks.

With commercial harvest of coho salmon completely illegal and other species not far behind, hundreds of our fishing men and women have been forced out of business and our local economies have suffered.

Early efforts at the state level have begun the process of reversing the decline of our salmon economy.

But even this effort will not be sufficient. The Pacific Salmon Recovery Act will provide a much-needed boost to our stream restoration efforts, as it will for the states of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska.

H.R. 2798 authorizes up to \$200 million for salmon habitat restoration activities by the five Pacific states and the tribal governments over three years.

Administrative expenses are capped at 1 percent for the Secretary of Commerce and 3 percent for the states and tribal governments to ensure that funds are spent where they are most desperately needed.

Financial assistance to the states is contingent on a Memorandum of Un-

derstanding. At a minimum, the MOU will prioritize salmon recovery, provide measurable criteria for measuring success, and promote projects that are scientifically based and cost-effective.

Eligible uses of the money include watershed planning, single, and multi-year project grants, watershed organization support and assistance, and project maintenance and monitoring.

Decline of the salmon stocks and the resulting land use restrictions have impact every economic sector in the Pacific Northwest, from fishing to farming to manufacturing to recreation.

We will never be able to return to what was once "business as usual," but this measure would provide a significant step toward restoring our salmon habitat and repairing our local economies.

Private landowners, conservation groups, and industry already have committed to the lengthy process of repairing the damage done.

I urge my colleagues to support state, local, and private efforts to restore the Pacific Salmon runs by supporting the Pacific Salmon Recovery Act.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2798, 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 of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to provide financial assistance to the States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho for salmon habitat restoration projects in coastal waters and upland drainages, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STATION IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4226) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Black Hills National Forest and to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire replacement sites and to acquire or construct administrative improvements in connection with the Black Hills National Forest, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4226

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 "Black Hills National Forest and Rocky Mountain Research Station Improvement Act".