

The Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act of 1984 and the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act are laws that provide directives to the States and the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission to develop fishery management plans for the species of fish under their jurisdiction along the East Coast.

These laws promote cooperation between the States and Federal Government to ensure that fisheries are getting appropriate and complementary management throughout their range, whether it be in State or Federal waters. The current robust health of striped bass populations is a direct result of efforts undertaken under these two acts.

The Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 are laws that implement international agreements. These acts allow the U.S. to be a member of the International Fishery Commission where management recommendations are developed by member nations for fisheries under the Commission's jurisdiction. The United States then implements those recommendations through regulations for U.S. fishing vessels.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1989 also makes some technical changes to the Oceans Act of 2000, Public Law 106-256. The bill extends the deadline for the Presidential commission to submit its report to Congress from 18 months to 27 months. This change will allow the commission to still be operational while the administration reviews and submits its comments. The commission will then have a chance to respond to the administration's comments and submit those to Congress. In addition, the commission has opted for a much broader field hearing schedule in order to obtain the views of additional Americans; and due to such a schedule, as a result, we have increased their authorization by \$2.5 million.

Mr. Speaker, all of these acts are very important. They have been very successful in accomplishing their conservation goals; and in the coming years, greater emphasis will be placed on research and management measures which promote the development of an ecosystem-based management of fisheries. I urge Members to vote "aye" on H.R. 1989.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill.

As the gentleman from Maryland has already explained, H.R. 1989 extends a number of fisheries laws that authorize the conservation management of many of our domestic and international fishery resources. In addition, it encourages an ecosystem approach to the

management of these resources which, given the current status of many marine fisheries, is an excellent idea that is long overdue.

As the gentleman from Maryland is aware, the general management of marine fisheries in the United States is in serious need of improvement. First, we lack the proper data to manage these stocks. Of the 900-plus stocks that we currently harvest, we do not have enough data to evaluate the status of more than 700 of them. At the same time, while better data is obviously needed, having good data does not ensure good management. Of the 200 or so stocks for which we do have adequate information, half are considered to be overfished or approaching an overfished condition.

The status of fisheries worldwide is apparently not much better, either. According to leading scientists in a study published in the November 29 issue of *Nature Magazine*, the global fisheries catches from the world's oceans have been declining for over a decade. This new evidence, which contradicts reports published by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, indicates that the true state of the oceans may be far worse than previously thought.

Now, some may think that people in Colorado, a State far from the ocean, would not care about the status of our marine fisheries, but that is not the case. The oceans represent more than 70 percent of the Earth's surface, and I believe it is incumbent upon all of us to work together to better protect and conserve their biodiversity. I know the bill of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCREST), with its focus on better data collection and ecosystem management, is a good first step. I look forward to working with him next year to expand this concept to the Magnuson Act, our Nation's primary law governing the management of marine fisheries.

Further, the law and its implementation must be strengthened if we are to have any hope of saving our fisheries resources, both here in the United States and around the world.

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

Mr. GILCREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to express my gratitude and appreciation for the members of the Committee on Resources on both sides of the aisle for piecing this package together, and I also want to compliment the staff on both sides of the aisle for their effort and cooperation in pulling this package together.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers; and 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. GILCREST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1989, 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: "A bill to reauthorize various fishing conservation management programs, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2440 and H.R. 1989.

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

There was no objection.

LAND CONVEYANCE TO CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2595) to direct the Secretary of the Army to convey a parcel of land to Chatham County, Georgia, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2595

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

SECTION 1. LAND CONVEYANCE TO CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army shall convey, by quitclaim deed and without consideration, to the Commissioners of Chatham County, Georgia, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the approximately 12-acre parcel of land located on Hutchinson Island, Georgia, adjacent to the Savannah Harbor Tide Gate structure.

(b) SURVEY TO OBTAIN LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—The exact acreage and the legal description of the parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey that is satisfactory to the Secretary.

(c) USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The parcel conveyed under this section shall remain in public ownership and shall be managed in perpetuity for public recreational purposes or, in the alternative, the parcel may be exchanged for another parcel of equal appraised value that shall remain in public ownership and shall be managed in perpetuity for public recreational purposes.

(2) REVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that the parcel conveyed under this section is being used for purposes other than public recreational purposes, title to the parcel shall revert to the United States or, in the case of an exchange of parcels under paragraph (1), if the Secretary determines that the parcel received in the exchange is being used for purposes other than public recreational purposes title to that parcel shall revert to the United States.

(d) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) APPLICABILITY OF PROPERTY SCREENING PROVISIONS.—Section 2696 of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply to the conveyance under this section.

(2) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require that the conveyance under this section be subject to such

additional terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate and necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

(3) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The County shall be responsible for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental compliance costs, associated with the conveyance.

(4) LIABILITY.—The County shall hold the United States harmless from any liability with respect to activities carried out, on or after the date of the conveyance, on the real property conveyed. The United States shall remain responsible for any liability with respect to activities carried out, before such date, on the real property conveyed.

(5) EASEMENTS.—The County shall provide to the Secretary all required rights of entry or easements necessary for utilities and for access to the Savannah Harbor Tide Gate structure and the dock located adjacent to the structure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Many years ago, Mr. Speaker, Chatham County, Georgia, donated approximately 12 acres of land on Hutchinson Island to the Federal Government so that the Corps of Engineers could build the Savannah River Tide Gate Structure. That project was closed in 1991 and the operational gates were removed. As a result, according to the Corps of Engineers, the Federal Government no longer needs this property.

Chatham County now would like to have this excess land returned to them so it could be used as part of an economic development project and a public recreational park. Without this legislation, the government has to follow a lengthy process for disposing of the property. This bill allows the property to go back to the county that gave up the land in the first place and will expedite an important local project that will benefit the public.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), the author of the bill and, presumably, from Chatham County, Georgia, to explain it to us further.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT) for his indulgence.

This simply lets the Corps of Engineers get rid of some excess property they do not want anymore. It allows the county to take that property and trade it to a private developer, 12 acres; but in exchange, they are going to get 40 acres back. I know the gentleman from Colorado will be interested to know that they are going to have a natural park in those 40 acres that is going to be ecologically sensitive, a passive park, which I know the gentleman from Boulder is familiar with.

So this is a very good piece of legislation with bipartisan support by the local folks and the Corps of Engineers.

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

Mr. Speaker, I know a comment was made a while ago about country music or country western music, and as the representative from Nashville, Tennessee, or Country Music USA, I appreciate the comments. I want my colleagues to know that the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and myself and some others had the opportunity to sing on the Grand Ole Opry not long ago, which was an experience of a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the bill H.R. 2595, a bill to convey a 12-acre parcel of land to Chatham County, Georgia, for public recreational purposes. This transfer will be accomplished without cost to the United States and for the benefit of the local citizens. The amended bill addresses a few issues from the original bill and should be supported by the House.

The land that would be transferred under this bill is not needed by the Corps of Engineers to carry out the purposes of the federally authorized project. The bill includes requirements to provide the Secretary of the Army rights of entry or easements so that the Corps can operate the project without hindrance.

Chatham County is responsible for all of the administrative costs of the land conveyance. In addition, the United States is protected from any environmental liability that may arise after the conveyance.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the land that is being conveyed to the county will be exchanged for another parcel of land. The bill before us stipulates that the exchanged parcel will be kept in public ownership and used for public recreational purposes. The exchange will also be conducted on an equal-value basis. I urge an "aye" vote on this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would notify the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT) that I am sorry that I missed their performance on the Grand Old Opry; maybe on the return trip.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 2595, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army to transfer land to Chatham County, GA, to enhance recreation opportunities in that locale.

The land transfer authorized under this bill is similar to transfers that our committee often approves as part of the Water Resources Development Acts. However, the sponsor of this bill, Mr. KINGSTON, has indicated that swift action is necessary in advance of next year's Water Resources Development Act so that this project may proceed in a timely manner.

The amended bill considered by the House today conforms the bill to the typical terms and conditions associated with land transfers. The revised language ensures that the transfer occurs at no cost to the Federal taxpayer and at no loss to the U.S. Treasury. In addition, the land will be maintained in public ownership for public benefit. If this particular parcel of land is transferred by the county, the transfer must be for lands of equal value, further protecting the interest of the taxpayer. Finally, if the lands are put to use other than as authorized by this bill, ownership of the lands will revert to the United States. As is always done, the land transfer preserves for the United States any easement or rights-of-way necessary to operate and maintain the existing Federal project.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "aye" on H.R. 2595.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2595, 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.

COMMENDING CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC RELIEF EFFORTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF SEPTEMBER 11 TERRORIST ATTACKS

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 259) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the relief efforts undertaken by charitable organizations and the people of the United States in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 259

Whereas the people of the United States have a long and honorable tradition of assisting individuals, families, and communities in need;

Whereas charitable organizations play a vital role in delivering services to individuals and families that are in need of relief;

Whereas charitable organizations are providing relief to the victims of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001, and their families;

Whereas the people of the United States have been extremely generous in contributing to charitable organizations that provide relief to the victims of the terrorist attacks and their families; and

Whereas more than \$1,000,000,000 has been collected for charitable work related to the terrorist attacks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) praises the people of the United States for their patriotism and generosity in donating their money, time, and blood to support the victims of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001, and their families;