

Senate on February 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4825. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction" (RIN0648-XD078) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4826. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XD063) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4827. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Pot Catcher/Processors in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD104) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4828. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Increase" (RIN0648-XD100) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4829. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 Feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall Using Hook-and-Line or Pot Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD114) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL for the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

*Maria Contreras-Sweet, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Caroline Diane Krass, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

John P. Carlin, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Francis Xavier Taylor, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to

respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2078. A bill to prohibit Federal funding for motorcycle checkpoints, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2079. A bill to establish a pilot program to hire individuals with alternative educational experience; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2080. A bill to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, enhance fish and wildlife-dependent recreation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2081. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require notification of Congress by the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board regarding any violation of the Constitutional rights of taxpayers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2082. A bill to provide for the development of criteria under the Medicare program for medically necessary short inpatient hospital stays, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 2083. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to promote economic growth and job creation in the United States, to strengthen strategic partnerships with allies of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 2084. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require the Secretary of the Interior to publish and make available for public comment a draft economic analysis at the time a proposed rule to designate critical habitat is published; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2085. A bill to address shortages and interruptions in the availability of propane and other home heating fuels in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER) (by request):

S.J. Res. 33. A joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed Third Amendment to the Agreement for Co-operation Between the United States of America and the International Atomic Energy Agency; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. COATS (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 370. A resolution supporting the territorial integrity of Ukraine and condemning Russian military aggression in Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 371. A resolution honoring the legacy of Jan Karski by designating April 24, 2014, as "Jan Karski Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. Res. 372. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUNT, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. Res. 373. A resolution recognizing the importance of biosecurity and agro-defense in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 374. A resolution designating March 3, 2014, as "World Wildlife Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. FLAKE):

S. Res. 375. A resolution concerning the crisis in the Central African Republic and supporting United States and international efforts to end the violence, protect civilians, and address root causes of the conflict; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 114

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 114, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to certain exceptions to discharge in bankruptcy.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 192, a bill to enhance the energy security of United States allies, and for other purposes.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 364

At the request of Mr. WALSH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 364, a bill to establish the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management

Area, to designate certain Federal land as wilderness, and to improve the management of noxious weeds in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, and for other purposes.

S. 452

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 452, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the incidence of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries.

S. 739

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 739, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 932

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 932, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for advance appropriations for certain discretionary accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 942

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 958

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 958, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level, and for other purposes.

S. 1008

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1008, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from implementing proposed policy changes that would permit passengers to carry small, non-locking knives on aircraft.

S. 1060

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to facilitate emergency medical services personnel training and certification curriculums for military veterans.

S. 1181

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1181, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts

from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes.

S. 1401

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1401, a bill to provide for the development of a plan to increase oil and gas exploration, development, and production under oil and gas leases of Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 1495

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1495, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue an order with respect to secondary cockpit barriers, and for other purposes.

S. 1694

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1694, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 1733

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1738, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 1756

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1756, a bill to amend section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants, similar retail food establishments, and vending machines.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 1827

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1827, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare.

S. 1941

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1941, a bill to establish requirements

for the adoption of any new or revised requirement providing for the screening, testing, or treatment of an airman or an air traffic controller for a sleep disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 2046

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2046, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiaries coordinated care and greater choice with regard to accessing hearing health services and benefits.

S. 2049

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2049, a bill to curb unfair and deceptive practices during assertion of patents, and for other purposes.

S. 2069

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2069, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and modify the credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers.

S. CON. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 6, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 348

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 348, a resolution expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

S. RES. 365

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 365, a resolution deploring the violent repression of peaceful demonstrators in Venezuela, calling for full accountability for human rights violations taking place in Venezuela, and supporting the right of the Venezuelan people to the free and peaceful exercise of representative democracy.

AMENDMENT NO. 2752

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2752 intended to be proposed to S. 1982, a bill to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2790

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2790 intended to be proposed to S. 1982, a bill to improve the

provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2080. A bill to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, enhance fish and wildlife-dependent recreation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a bill I am introducing with the Senior Senator from Idaho, that will help improve the long term health and abundance of United States' fish populations. Our bill takes a comprehensive approach to stopping the single greatest threat declining fish populations, by stemming the decline of healthy aquatic ecosystem habitats that are critical to all fish species.

Improving the quality of fish habitat provides benefits beyond improving the health and abundance of fish populations. Healthier aquatic ecosystems means healthier habitats for waterfowl and other wildlife as well as safer recreational waters for Americans to swim, boat and fish in.

North America is home to nearly 700 native fish species. This abundance of fish species is one of many natural treasures we must work to protect and maintain. Much like other precious natural resources in this country our wild fish populations face unfortunate anthropogenic threats. Forty percent of our native fish populations are in decline. This is due in large part to the impairment of more than half of our nation's waters including the waters of my state's, and the mid-Atlantic region's greatest treasure, the Chesapeake Bay. Deliberate and targeted action is needed to stem the loss of our precious fish resources by ensuring that these important aquatic habitats are better preserved.

State, federal and private efforts to address this challenge of improving and protecting critical fish habitat are underway in many states and in local communities. However, too many of these efforts are uncoordinated with one another which is leading to fragmented and less effective results than if these efforts carried out in a more networked and comprehensive fashion.

Under the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act, Federal Government agencies will work in careful coordination with state and local governments, as well as stakeholder organizations and industries like conservation groups, fisherman, and companies in the outdoor recreation industry to collaboratively execute the scientifically most effective fish and aquatic habitat conservation projects possible.

Our legislation leverages funds from Federal and State natural resource

agencies and private funds to build regional partnerships focused on improving critical aquatic habitats across the country. Targeting these financial resources, through government and private partnership, towards projects in regional watersheds that will make the greatest improvements to the health of aquatic habitats will improve the health and abundance of native fish populations, improve the quality of life for surrounding communities, and improve recreational opportunities which is a boost to our national and local economies. The goal of this effort is to foster landscape scale starting at the local level through multi-state aquatic habitat improvement projects. The goal is also to engage stakeholders like commercial fisherman, anglers, outfitters and other angling and sportsmen industries to participate in this effort to make lasting improvements to the health and sustainability of our fisheries resources.

The National Fish Habitat Conservation Act authorizes \$7.2 million annually for fish habitat restoration and protection projects that are supported by regional Fish Habitat Partnerships the bill also establishes. Based on the successful North American Wetlands Conservation Act model, the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act establishes a multi-stakeholder National Fish Habitat Board to recommend projects to the Secretary of Interior for funding. Regional Fish Habitat Partnerships are responsible for implementing habitat protection and restoration projects in the watersheds that will enhance fish habitats and fish populations.

The National Fish Habitat Conservation Act applies a proven and effective model for habitat conservation to protect and restore declining quality fish habitat. Our legislation ensures collaboration between expert stakeholders and state and regional fisheries resource managers to ensure the effectiveness of the work that is done.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2080

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “National Fish Habitat Conservation Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; purpose.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. National Fish Habitat Board.
- Sec. 5. Fish habitat partnerships.
- Sec. 6. Fish habitat conservation projects.
- Sec. 7. National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program.

- Sec. 8. Technical and scientific assistance.
- Sec. 9. Conservation of fish habitat on Federal land.
- Sec. 10. Coordination with States and Indian tribes.
- Sec. 11. Accountability and reporting.
- Sec. 12. Effect of Act.
- Sec. 13. Nonapplicability of Federal Advisory Committee Act.
- Sec. 14. Funding.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) healthy populations of fish depend on the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish habitats in the United States;

(2) fish habitats (including wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastal and marine habitats) perform numerous valuable environmental functions that sustain environmental, social, and cultural values, including recycling nutrients, purifying water, attenuating floods, augmenting and maintaining stream flows, recharging ground water, acting as primary producers in the food chain, and providing essential and significant habitat for plants, fish, wildlife, and other dependent species;

(3) the extensive and diverse fish habitat resources of the United States are of enormous significance to the economy of the United States, providing—

- (A) recreation for 60,000,000 anglers;
- (B) more than 828,000 jobs and approximately \$115,000,000,000 in economic impact each year relating to recreational fishing; and

(C) approximately 575,000 jobs and an additional \$36,000,000,000 in economic impact each year relating to commercial fishing;

(4) at least 40 percent of all threatened species and endangered species in the United States are directly dependent on fish habitats;

(5) certain fish species are considered to be ecological indicators of fish habitat quality, such that the presence of those species reflects high-quality habitat for fish species;

(6) loss and degradation of fish habitat, riparian habitat, water quality, and water volume caused by activities such as alteration of watercourses, stream blockages, water withdrawals and diversions, erosion, pollution, sedimentation, and destruction or modification of wetlands have—

(A) caused significant declines in fish populations throughout the United States, especially declines in native fish populations; and

(B) resulted in economic losses to the United States;

(7)(A) providing for the conservation and sustainability of fish populations has not been fully realized, despite federally funded fish and wildlife restoration programs and other activities intended to conserve fish habitat; and

(B) conservation and sustainability may be significantly advanced through a renewed commitment and sustained, cooperative efforts that are complementary to existing fish and wildlife restoration programs and clean water programs;

(8) the National Fish Habitat Action Plan provides a framework for maintaining and restoring fish habitats to perpetuate populations of fish species;

(9) the United States can achieve significant progress toward providing fish habitats for the conservation and restoration of fish species through a voluntary, nonregulatory incentive program that is based on technical and financial assistance provided by the Federal Government;

(10) the creation of partnerships between local citizens, Indian tribes, Alaska Native organizations, corporations, nongovernmental organizations, and Federal, State,