

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

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] for his graciousness. This is, indeed, an utterly nonpartisan success. It is bipartisan. In fact, I never expected it to be completely bipartisan in my life. It has always had majority and minority support, and I never expected it to be on both sides, but here we are.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say a word and supplement what the gentleman says. This is really a success story, a decade after the passage of the original act, an inspiration to fishermen and to managers that conservation can in fact work.

Ten years ago striped bass stocks along the Atlantic coast had declined to dangerously low levels as a result both of overfishing and pollution. Fishermen and managers alike were concerned that this fishery would soon become endangered. In an unprecedented move, Congress passed the Striped Bass Conservation Act, designed to support State efforts to reverse this trend. The management program established under the act was at the time of its inception in 1984 unique.

It relies upon the States to develop regulations for their waters that are consistent with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's management plan for striped bass. If a State fails in its efforts, a Federal moratorium is imposed.

This partnership was so successful that in January of this year, the commission declared the striper to be fully recovered. The implementation of the Federal-State partnership embodied in the act has restored the striper to its former glory as one of the most important sport and commercial fisheries on the East Coast. Fishermen in my State from Martha's Vineyard to Mattapoisett are celebrating the return of the striper, but are mindful of the need to continue the conservation and management programs that have brought this fishery back from the crash of the preceding decade. This bill will ensure this is the case, and I enthusiastically urge Members to support it today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to another gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. PALLONE.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to thank the two gentleman, my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON], and my colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS], for putting together this legislation. In particular, both of them have been supportive of language which was placed in the bill that would ensure public participation on all striped bass management plans.

Many people who are involved with striped bass management know that there is a large and vociferous group of recreational fishermen out there who become very concerned about any changes that are made in the manage-

ment plan. One of the things that they continually tell us is that they want to be involved at every stage in whatever management plan changes are put forward.

This bill and the language that is in the bill guarantee that public participation will do what is necessary to make sure that they have their opportunity to be heard.

I certainly want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS] for their cooperation in putting that language in the bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the Striped Bass Conservation Act amendments and I compliment the author of the bill, JIM SAXTON, for his leadership in moving this important measure.

The Atlantic coast stock of striped bass are found in waters from North Carolina to Maine. They are highly migratory but move primarily along the coast within the 3-mile zone, which is subject to State fishery management.

While striped bass populations have fluctuated dramatically in the past, the population suffered a drastic decline in the 1970s. In fact, striped bass harvests dropped from 15 million pounds in 1973 to 3.5 million pounds in 1983.

In response to this serious problem, Congress approved an emergency striped bass study and the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act of 1984. This law requires all affected coastal States to implement management measures to conserve and protect the remaining stocks of Atlantic striped bass.

While the resurgence of striped bass is a major fishery management success, H.R. 1139 will ensure that this remarkable recovery is not compromised in the days ahead.

As reported from my committee, this legislation will reauthorize both the Striped Bass Conservation Act and section 7 of the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act, which funds ongoing striped bass population studies. In addition, the bill focuses attention on stripers in the Delaware River and encourages greater public participation in the writing of management plans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on H.R. 1139 and again compliment JIM SAXTON and GERRY STUDDS for their outstanding leadership in this major conservation effort. I would hope more of our fishery management efforts prove to be this successful in the future.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON], that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1139, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1361, COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 139 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H.R. 139

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1361) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 302(f), section 308(a), or section 401(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered by title rather than by section. The first two sections and each title of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. Points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with clause 5(a) of rule XXI or section 302(f) or section 401(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all