

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. GILCHREST), 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. GILCHREST. 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. GILCHREST) 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. GILCHREST. 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