

The plan has faced heated criticism from agricultural interests and politicians in California, but environmentalists said it represented a welcome departure by the Obama administration from its predecessor in dealing with Endangered Species Act issues.

The Sacramento plan, they add, is in sharp contrast to the plan for restoring wild salmon populations on the Columbia and Snake rivers in Washington state and Idaho. That plan, written by the Bush administration, essentially concluded that the long-term decline in those federally protected runs didn't jeopardize the killer whales' existence because hatchery fish could make up the difference.

The 85 orcas of the southern resident killer whale population travel in three separate pods, spending much of their time roaming the inland waters of Washington state from the San Juan Islands to south Puget Sound. During the winter they've been found offshore, ranging as far south as Monterey Bay in California and as far north as British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Islands. Each orca has distinctive markings, which allows them to be tracked.

In the mid-1990s, there were nearly 100 orcas in the three southern resident pods. The population fell to fewer than 80 in 2001. In 2005, they were granted federal protection as an endangered species. They've been studied closely for only 30 years or so, but historically there may have been up to 200 southern resident orcas.

Researchers think that the decline has resulted from pollution—which could cause immune- or reproductive-system dysfunction—and from oil spills, noise and other vessel disturbances, along with a reduced quantity and quality of prey.

With the largest 27 feet long and weighing 10,000 pounds, orcas are constantly on the prowl for food. They've been known to hunt in packs. Their meal of choice: salmon, particularly chinook salmon.

By some estimates, the orcas eat about 500,000 salmon a year.

"We are trying to figure out how killer whales fit in," said Bradley Hanson, a wildlife biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Services in Seattle who studies orcas. "We don't have a lot of information on the movement of southern resident whales down the coast. We don't have a lot of information on adult salmon movements off the coast."

Before 2000, Hanson said, no one was quite sure where the killer whales went when they went to sea. It was a surprise when they showed up near Monterey Bay, he said.

The Sacramento and American river systems combined were once among the top salmon-spawning rivers on the West Coast, trailing only the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Prompted by lawsuits, the National Marine Fisheries Service last month published its latest plan for the Sacramento and American rivers' winter and fall chinook salmon runs. Without further curtailments of water for the federal Central Valley Project—a several-hundred-mile network of dams, canals and pumping plants—and the California State Water Project—the nation's largest state-built water and power development and conveyance system, which supplies water for 23 million Californians—the two runs are in jeopardy of extinction, the plan said.

Without changes, the southern resident killer whales, a run of steelhead and a population of North American green sturgeon almost certainly would disappear, according to the plan.

The killer whale population is extremely fragile, and scientists said the loss or serious injury to just one could appreciably reduce the odds that the southern resident pods would recover or survive.

The scientists who wrote the Sacramento plan also said that hatchery-raised salmon

couldn't be counted on to sustain the killer whales' survival.

"Healthy wild salmon populations are important to the long-term maintenance of prey populations available to southern residents, because it is uncertain whether a hatchery-only stock could be sustained indefinitely," the scientists said.

Not only are there concerns about long-term funding for the hatcheries, but scientists also have questions about whether hatchery fish are as genetically strong and healthy as wild ones. Though changes to the hatcheries could improve the fish they produce, there's no agreement on what needs to be done and no guarantees that the changes would work.

The latest plan for the Columbia-Snake wild salmon runs concluded that continued operation of the federal hydroelectric dams on the two rivers was "not likely to adversely affect" the killer whales. Earlier, federal scientists found that "perhaps the single greatest change in food availability for resident killer whales since the late 1800s has been the decline of salmon from the Columbia River basin."

Despite the decline in wild runs, the scientists who worked on the Columbia plan concluded that hatchery fish would be able to make up any deficit in the orcas' diet.

Though the Columbia-Snake salmon plan acknowledges the potential problems with hatchery fish, it dismisses, at least for now, their impact on killer whale food supplies.

Lynne Barre, a National Marine Fisheries Service scientist in Seattle who helped write both plans, downplays any differences.

"I think we say the same thing in both opinions," Barre said, adding that both plans recognize that hatchery fish could be a short-term substitute for wild fish but that there were concerns about whether hatchery fish could be a long-term food source for orcas. "The general principles are similar."

Environmentalists, however, say that the differences couldn't be more obvious.

"The contrasts are striking," said Todd True, a lawyer for the Seattle office of Earthjustice, which has challenged the Columbia-Snake plan in a lawsuit in federal court in Portland, Ore.

True said the Sacramento salmon plan was a "candid piece of work that had a strong independent review and the absence of political interference." As for the Columbia-Snake plan, True said that it "pretends there isn't a problem."

The judge in the Portland case has given the Obama administration until Aug. 15 to indicate whether it'll stick with the Columbia-Snake salmon plan written during the Bush administration or offer a new one. True said he'd raise the orca issue again.

Other environmentalists said that Jane Lubchenco, who heads the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which includes the fisheries service, must be aware of the differences in how the two salmon plans addressed killer whales. Lubchenco is a marine biologist who taught at Oregon State University.

"They need to decide which of the contradictory statements are correct," said Pat Ford of Save Our Wild Salmon.

School who recently won their first ever state championship in school history. These outstanding women were on a mission all season long, and this was a team of firsts—last season they were the first in school history to win a regional championship, and in 2009, they completed the mission and cemented their legacy as the first state champions in women's athletics at Niles High School.

Winning a state title is something that will last forever. It is a truly remarkable accomplishment that few teams in southwest Michigan ever experience, and it is a legacy that will live with the 2009 Lady Vikings forever. While the Vikings were led by the best pitcher in the State of Michigan, Jenna Ignowski, they were a team that worked hard to improve every part of their game. These Lady Vikings improved their defense throughout the season and there were no easy outs up and down the Viking lineup.

It is an honor to pay tribute to the entire Lady Vikings team and head coach Gary Collins.

On behalf of all of the residents of southwest Michigan, congratulations again to the Lady Vikings, Coach Collins and the entire Niles community—you are an inspiration to us all.

It is Viking Pride at its finest. Go vikings?

CONGRATULATING KAYEM FOODS, INC. OF CHELSEA, MASSACHUSETTS ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kayem Foods, Inc. of Chelsea, Massachusetts on its 100th anniversary. From humble beginnings in 1909 to a much higher profile in 2009 after being named the official hot dog of historic Fenway Park and Red Sox Nation, Kayem has developed a stellar reputation in the Greater Boston community for its dedication to quality products and community causes.

In 1909, Kazimierz Monkiewicz emigrated from Poland with his wife, Helena, and started a small business making kielbasa—native sausages from Poland—in their backyard in Chelsea. From there, he went on to achieve the American Dream, laying strong roots in the community and establishing a successful family business called Kayem—so named for Mr. Monkiewicz's initials.

As Kayem's reputation for quality meats spread, Monkiewicz began delivering to nearby communities via horse-drawn carriage. As the business grew further, Monkiewicz's four sons assumed roles in the burgeoning family enterprise. A century later, Kayem is still a family business with grandson Ray, recently retired as company president, now serving as chairman of the board of directors and 13 other family members working there as well.

In recent years, Kayem has expanded its market beyond New England. In addition to making 1 million hot dogs each day, Kayem is now known for its al fresco all natural chicken sausages, which have received several "best of" awards from national publications, and its line of delicious Kayem Brats.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LADY VIKINGS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lady Vikings of Niles High

Through its successful enterprise, Kayem is the city of Chelsea's largest employer, with more than 500 workers representing immigrants from more than 25 different nations. Kayem serves the Greater Boston community in ways beyond being a stable employer. A leading supporter of Chelsea institutions like the Jordan Boys & Girls Club, Centro Latino and Bunker Hill Community College, Kayem is known for its generosity, including regular food donations to dozens of local charitable events. Kayem recently established "Kayem Cares," a program that supports the fight against breast cancer through donations based on sales.

For its commendable history and contributions to the community over the past 100 years, I would like to extend my congratulations to Kayem Foods and the Monkiewicz family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, had I been present to vote on the Stearns (FL) Amendment to H.R. 3081 the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 2010, I would have voted "no."

HONORING PHYLLIS BUSANSKY

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend Phyllis Busansky. Phyllis served my community in so many ways. Her last post was the Supervisor of Elections for Hillsborough County, Florida. Phyllis will always be remembered in our hearts for her brave leadership, for her open, gregarious style and for her ability and zeal to fix problems that were tough to tackle.

Phyllis served under Florida Governors Lawton Chiles and Jeb Bush and established the Welfare-to-Work program, which helped the state's poor find employment and financial stability.

After graduating from Wheaton College, Phyllis earned her master's of business administration from Brandeis University. She taught leadership and coalition building at Columbia University's School of Public Health. A native of Connecticut, Phyllis lived in Tampa for nearly three decades, and she and her husband, Sheldon, raised their three children there.

Before being elected Supervisor of Elections for Hillsborough County in 2008, Phyllis served our seniors as director of Hillsborough's Department for Aging Services and our entire community on the Hillsborough County Hospital Authority. In 1988 she was elected to serve two terms as a County Commissioner. There Phyllis led the fight to provide innovative and visionary county-wide health care for poor and working folks. Her legacy as the primary author of the Hillsborough County Health Care Plan lives on

every day in the improved health of our neighbors and our community. She was truly passionate about making sure those who could least afford health care or had limited access had a fighter on their side. She was already showing her same passion as Supervisor of Elections, working tirelessly to guarantee that voters' rights were protected.

Phyllis was proud to be a "happy warrior" for so many causes. It is especially poignant to lose her during this crucial time when the Congress struggles to make health care a reality for all our neighbors. We will all need to draw on her energy and commitment and, being mindful of the huge gap she has left us, vow to work even harder.

Phyllis' big heart resulted in her describing many in our community as "fabulous", but the truth is that few are or ever will be as fabulous as Phyllis.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Sheldon, and all her family. She will be sorely missed.

INTRODUCING THE SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH ACT

HON. BETSY MARKEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I introduced The Small Business Growth Act along with Representatives BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, ALAN GRAYSON, RON PAUL, GINNY BROWN-WAITE, VERN BUCHANAN, BOBBY BRIGHT, and ANN KIRKPATRICK. I thank them for their support.

As we all know small business is the economic backbone of America; small businesses provide nearly 70 million workers employment and 80 percent of all new jobs in America. Small businesses are struggling in these tough economic times. We must do more to help small business which will turn our economy around.

Under Section 179 of the Internal Revenue Code small business can expense machinery, equipment and furniture but not "real property"—new structures (buildings), renovations and structural components; this legislation corrects this matter.

The Small Business Growth Act is targeted to small businesses which have gross receipts of less than \$5 million for the past three years. The legislation makes permanent a tax deduction for capital improvements that small businesses make to their facilities allowing them to take up to \$125,000. An immediate tax deduction, rather than depreciation, will help small businesses to put money towards expanding their facility, purchasing a new piece of equipment, or hiring another worker—all of which creates jobs and stimulates our economy.

I urge all members to support The Small Business Growth Act.

THE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVE

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, in early 2008, President Bush established the

Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative to address cyberattacks on federal networks and President Obama has committed to fully continue this effort under his administration.

Awareness of our vulnerabilities to cyberattack and the need for action is nearly universal and goes beyond party lines.

The seriousness of this situation was brought into focus this week, when it was revealed a powerful attack overwhelmed computers at U.S. and South Korean government Web sites.

Other targets included the National Security Agency, the State Department, and the New York Stock Exchange.

It is our responsibility as a Congress—and my commitment as a member of the House Science and Technology Committee—to ensure we get this issue right, and ensure taxpayer dollars provide a return in the form of lasting and effective security, while also protecting privacy.

The need is real, the threat is present and clear, and I want to make sure our country is prepared.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT MURPHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, July 9, 2009, I was absent from U.S. House of Representatives while on official business in my district.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: "no" on rollcall 497; "aye" on rollcall 498; "aye" on rollcall 499; "aye" on rollcall 500; "no" on rollcall 501; "aye" on rollcall 502; "no" on rollcall 503; "no" on rollcall 504; "no" on rollcall 505; "no" on rollcall 506; "no" on rollcall 507; "no" on rollcall 508; "aye" on rollcall 509; "aye" on rollcall 510; "aye" on rollcall 511; "aye" on rollcall 512; "no" on rollcall 513; "aye" on rollcall 514; "aye" on rollcall 515; "aye" on rollcall 516; "no" on rollcall 517; "no" on rollcall 518; "aye" on rollcall 519; "no" on rollcall 520; "aye" on rollcall 521; "no" on rollcall 522.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. LEROY HILL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, south Alabama and indeed the entire state recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Leroy Hill was born in Eagle Lake, Florida, and was a longtime resident of Grand Bay. He served in the Korean War as a staff sergeant ranger in the Airborne division of the U.S. Army.

Following his career in the Army, Mr. Hill moved to Savannah, Georgia, and began his career in the coffee business. He worked as a Maxwell House route man for the Belford Company earning \$40 a week. In 1956, he transferred to Mobile and created his own coffee business, the Leroy Hill Coffee Company,