

in pressing for the necessary protection to continue the fishing tradition that has been passed down from family to family, from generation to generation. It is my hope that we will not inherit from a previous generation the problem of depleting these much-needed resources.

Again, I thank the ranking member and the chairman for providing me a chance to have input in this process.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE] has 10 minutes remaining and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maine [Mr. BALDACCI].

□ 1430

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE] for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1855. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I know that it is going to establish a moratorium on entry of large fishing vessels in the Atlantic for herring and mackerel fisheries.

Herring have provided a living for Mainers for well over 100 years. From sardines and exports to lobster bait, the fishery continues to play a prominent role in the economies of coastal communities. Estimates and anecdotes suggest that a large herring fishery exists, but the resource is poorly understood.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has not yet done a stock assessment. While the resource appears to have potential, it is of grave concern to most of the maritime community that there is no fishery management plans in place and that there is no way to ensure that the harvest is conducted at a sustainable rate.

The absence of sound science clearly impacts the ability of the councils to develop or amend the appropriate fishery management plans. It is clear that the councils are moving in that direction. I believe that it is essential to develop the research that will serve as the foundations for sound plans. This bill does just that. It calls for the science to be conducted. It gives the councils the breathing room necessary to develop solid plans.

What makes congressional action necessary is the prospect that fishing efforts for the two species may rapidly overdevelop and include very large freezer trawlers. This troubling scenario is compounded by the very real possibility that this could all occur before comprehensive plans are in place.

I would add that the moratorium would be temporary. It would remain in place until the completion of population survey and the approval of management plans. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1855.

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, yielding myself such time as I may consume, as has been stated here with regard to the species in question, there is a significant population of herring and mackerel, and we believe that it is important that we maintain a balance within the ocean ecosystem and that this species should be protected from overharvesting.

We do not want, in other words, history to repeat itself, as it did with the shark population, when the National Marine Fishery Service, in the 1980's, declared it an underutilized species. The species was fished on with very, very heavy fishing pressure. And by 1993, the National Marine Fisheries Service had to declare the shark fishery an endangered fishery.

As with regard to other historical precedents, red fish in the Gulf of Mexico, in 1980 it was declared an underutilized species, and by 1986, with the taking of more than 10 million tons a year, the species became overutilized, overfished, and endangered.

Another example is with regard to an international problem with regard to the Atlantic blue fin tuna. During the 1970's, blue fin were abundant all over the north Atlantic and the south Atlantic, as well. Today, the blue fin population, because of overfishing, is just 13 percent of what it was back in those years.

So, in order to avoid this occurrence with regard to herring and mackerel, I urge passage of this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The question is will the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1855, 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.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 123. Concurrent resolution providing for the use of the catafalque situated in the crypt beneath the rotunda of the Capitol in connection with memorial services to be conducted in the Supreme Court Building for the late honorable William J. Brennan, former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 33. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National SAFE KIDS Campaign SAFE KIDS Buckle Up Car Seat Check Up.

#### NEW MEXICO STATEHOOD AND ENABLING ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1997

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 430) to amend the act of June 20, 1910, to protect the permanent trust funds of the State of New Mexico from erosion due to inflation and modify the basis on which distributions are made from those funds.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 430

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

#### SECTION 1. PERMANENT TRUST FUNDS OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "New Mexico Statehood and Enabling Act Amendments of 1997".

(b) INVESTMENT OF AND DISTRIBUTIONS FROM PERMANENT TRUST FUNDS.—The Act of June 20, 1910 (36 Stat. 557, chapter 310), is amended—

(1) in the proviso in the second paragraph of section 7, by striking "the income therefrom only to be used" and inserting "distributions from which shall be made in accordance with the first paragraph of section 10 and shall be used";

(2) in section 9, by striking "the interest of which only shall be expended" and inserting "distributions from which shall be made in accordance with the first paragraph of section 10 and shall be expended"; and

(3) in the first paragraph of section 10, by adding at the end the following: "The trust funds, including all interest, dividends, other income, and appreciation in the market value of assets of the funds shall be prudently invested on a total rate of return basis. Distributions from the trust funds shall be made as provided in Article 12, Section 7 of the Constitution of the State of New Mexico."

(c) CONSENT OF CONGRESS.—Congress consents to the amendments to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico proposed by Senate Joint Resolution 2 of the 42nd Legislature of the State of New Mexico, Second Session, 1996, entitled "A Joint Resolution proposing amendments to Article 8, Section 10 and Article 12, Sections 2, 4 and 7 of the Constitution of New Mexico to protect the State's permanent funds against inflation by limiting distributions to a percentage of each fund's market value and by modifying certain investment restrictions to allow optimal diversification of investments", approved by the voters of the State of New Mexico on November 5, 1996.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON].

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 430 is identical to H.R. 1051, a bill introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SKEEN]. S. 430 is a result of very hard work by the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SKEEN] and the entire New Mexico delegation and has no opposition from the Administration. Furthermore, this bill is very beneficial to citizens of New Mexico.