While S. 148 will not solve all the problems facing neotropical migratory birds, it is a positive step. Under this bill, we would create a neotropical migratory bird conservation account. This account would be used to finance worthwhile conservation projects approved by the Secretary of the Interior. I urge an ''aye'' vote on S. 148.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support S. 148, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, and have cosponsored its companion in the House with the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

As the gentleman from Pennsylvania pointed out, this is a rather dramatic migration of billions of birds that takes place every year, but the populations of many of these birds are, in fact, threatened. This legislation is designed to take a proactive approach to reversing the decline of the neotropical migratory birds' populations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to support this bill.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHERWOOD. 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 S.148, the Senate bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to the House S. 148, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

Neotropical migrants are birds that travel across international borders and depend upon thousands of miles of suitable habitat. Each autumn some 5 billion birds from 500 species migrate between their breeding grounds in North America and their tropical homes in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Regrettably, the population of many neotropical migratory bird species had declined to dangerously low levels. There are many reasons for this population collapse including competition among species, hazards along migration routes, pesticide use, and loss of essential habitat.

What is lacking is a strategic international plan for bird conservation, money for on-the-ground projects, public awareness, and any real cooperation between those countries where these birds live.

While S. 148 will not solve all the problems facing neotropical migratory birds, it is a positive step. Under this bill, we would create a Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Account. This account would be used to finance worthwhile conservation projects approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

S. 148 has been adopted by the other body, and today we are considering a modified version of that legislation. This bill supports conservation initiatives in the Caribbean, Latin America, and the United States; extends the authorization period until September 30, 2005; lowers the Federal matching requirement; reduces the amount of administrative expenses; and stipulates that not less than 75 percent of the money appropriated under this act must be spent on conservation projects undertaken outside the United States. This is simply recognition of the fact that most of the problems facing neotropical migratory birds occur in foreign migration routes and that every effort should be made to spend these limited Federal funds on conservation and not bureaucracy.

Furthermore, as the House author of H.R. 39, I do not expect that any of the money appropriated under this act will be spent on land acquisition in the United States.

Finally, I want to thank my good friend, Congressman RICHARD POMBO, for his willingness to work together on this proposal, and I compliment Senator SPENCER ABRAHAM for his tireless leadership on this important conservation measure.

I urge an ''Aye'' vote on S. 148.

Mr. SHERWOOD. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 148, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4408) to reauthorize the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4408

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

SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS CONSERVATION ACT.

Section 7(a) of the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) AUTHORIZATION.—For each of fiscal years 2001, 2002, and 2003, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

(1) $1,000,000 to the Secretary of Commerce; and

(2) $250,000 to the Secretary of the Interior.''.

SEC. 2. POPULATION STUDY OF STRIPED BASS.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretaries (as that term is defined in the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act), in consultation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, shall conduct a study to determine if the distribution of year classes in the Atlantic striped bass population is appropriate for maintaining adequate recruitment and sustainable fishing opportunities. In conducting the study, the Secretaries shall consider—

(1) long-term stock assessment data and other fishery-dependent and independent data for Atlantic striped bass; and

(2) the results of peer-reviewed research funded under the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in consultation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives the results of the study and a long-term plan to ensure a balanced and healthy population structure of Atlantic striped bass, including older fish. The report shall include information regarding—

(1) the structure of the Atlantic striped bass population required to maintain adequate recruitment and sustainable fishing opportunities; and

(2) recommendations for measures necessary to achieve and maintain the population structure described in paragraph (1).

(c) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce $250,000 to carry out this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

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

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering H.R. 4408, a bill proposed by my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), to reauthorize the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act.

Striped bass are an important recreational and commercial resource on the East Coast. The original Striped Bass Conservation Act was enacted in 1984. The act provides a means to enforce a single interstate management plan.

H.R. 4408 is a simple bill to reauthorize the Striped Bass Act. The bill provides funding for striped bass research that will be carried out through the National Marine Fisheries Service. H.R. 4408 authorizes a total of $4.5 million over 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4408 is noncontroversial and is supported by the administration. I urge an ''aye'' vote on this important conservation measure.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Atlantic striped bass is an important commercial and recreational fish found along the U.S. East Coast from the Saint Lawrence River in Canada to the Saint John's River in Florida.

The Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act was first passed in 1984, and

since then has been an effective mechanism for enforcing the interstate fishery management plan for the striped bass, and I urge my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that today the House is considering H.R. 4408, a bill to reauthorize the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act. Striped bass are extremely important to many people on the east coast, including my home State of New Jersey. In New Jersey, commercial fishing is prohibited but recreational anglers spend a great deal of time and money pursuing striped bass. These anglers support State tourism industries, including charter boat captains and bait and tackle stores.

I introduced H.R. 4408 to continue the recovery program for this important species. The recovery of this species stands as a rare example of bringing an irreplaceable resource back from the brink of disaster. Reauthorization of the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act is a critical component of the management strategy for striped bass.

The original striped bass legislation was enacted in 1984, several years after the Atlantic Coast stock of striped bass suffered a severe population crash. The Striped Bass Act provides a means to enforce a single interstate management plan through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. As it turns out, this was the action that was needed to save the species. Over the last 16 years this program has succeeded beyond any expectations. In 1984, the outlook was truly bleak for striped bass and the fishermen who depend on them. Striper populations have since recovered to fishable levels. The stocks appear to be strong, although there is some concern that we have continued to allow overfishing in some areas.

H.R. 4408 is a simple bill to reauthorize the Striped Bass Act. The bill provides funding for the ongoing striped bass research that has been carried out through the National Marine Fisheries Service at universities such as Rutgers. The restoration program relies on this research to make informed, science-based management decisions. H.R. 4408 authorizes an additional $200,000 a year to carry out these studies. It is my hope that this additional funding will be used to focus on the predator/prey relationships between striped bass and bluefish, as required by the act.

H.R. 4408 also includes $250,000 to study the population structure of Atlantic striped bass. I am concerned that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has allowed fishermen to overharvest the larger and older striped bass. Stock assessment data for 1998 indicate that fish over 8 years old are rare, and that the fish may have been decimated by fishing pressure. These bigger fish are not only valued by the recreational fishermen in my district, but they play an important ecological role in ensuring sufficient numbers of young fish in the next generation of striped bass. The larger fish produce proportionally more eggs, and are the most important age group during the spring spawning runs.

Despire their importance, reauthorization of the Striped Bass Act and continuing research on the species is not enough. Congress needs to provide adequate funding to NOAA and the National Marine Fisheries Service to continue regular stock assessment and data collection for this species. We also need to continue to investigate other factors that affect striped bass, such as pollution, environmental change, and competition with other species. We need the best information possible to protect the gains that we have made.

Mr. Speaker, today we have the opportunity to build upon our past successes with Atlantic striped bass, and I urge the House to support this measure.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I speak today in support of the reauthorization of the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act.

The Atlantic striped bass is a valuable coastal resource and one of the most important fisheries for recreational anglers—especially within the Sixth Congressional District of New Jersey. As a senior member of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife, and Oceans, I have a long history of involvement in protecting, preserving, and enhancing the striped bass. In fact, I have sponsored legislation to designate the striped bass as a federal gamefish. This bill would prohibit the commercial harvesting of striped bass and reserve this resource for recreational catches only, therefore ensuring a healthy sustainable recreational fishery.

The recovery of the striped bass fishery since the crash of the late 1970's is a example of successful state and federal cooperation and angler support over the last two decades. By the numbers, the Atlantic striped bass fishery appears to be thriving and healthy, but maintaining these harvests will require continued coordination and careful management.

The 1998–99 harvest data show a harvest increase for both commercial and recreational fishermen over previous years. In fact, harvest levels have been increasing steadily since the moratorium on striped bass fishing was lifted in 1990. In its 1999 report to Congress, the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission states that the 1999 stock assessment revealed cause for concern that striped bass were fished above the target level in 1998 and 1999.

Of particular concern was the finding that fishing mortality for older (age 8 and up) fish exceeded the definition of overfishing in 1998. These age 8 and older fish represent the most important age class for recreational fishermen, and provide a large percentage of the spawning biomass.

While these stock assessment figures raise concerns about the harvest of larger fish, the fishery does not appear to be in danger of collapse in the near future. However, I believe we must take precautionary measures now to avoid that potential threat of a collapse in the future.

In 1979, Congress first authorized the Emergency Striped Bass Study as part of the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act to address the problem of declining striped bass stocks. This legislation was later expanded by the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act of 1984 which ensured that the states would comply with a coast-wide fishery management plan. Since its inception, this bill has been a positive step in managing the Atlantic striped bass fishery. It is for that reason that I support passage of the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Reauthorization.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4408, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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GREATER YUMA PORT AUTHORITY PROPERTY CONVEYANCE

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3023) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to convey property to the Greater Yuma Port Authority of Yuma County, Arizona, for use as an international port of entry, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3023

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF LANDS TO THE GREATER YUMA PORT AUTHORITY.

(a) AUTHORITY TO CONVEY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, may, in the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and in accordance with the conditions specified in subsection (b) convey to the Greater Yuma Port Authority the interests described in paragraph (2).

(2) INTERESTS DESCRIBED.—The interests referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

(A) All right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the lands comprising Section 23, Township 11 South, Range 24 West, G&SRBM, Lots 1–4, NE¼, N½ NW¼, excluding lands located within the 60-foot border strip, in Yuma County, Arizona.

(B) All right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the lands comprising Section 22, Township 11 South, Range 24 West, G&SRBM, East 300 feet of Lot 1, excluding lands located within the 60-foot border strip, in Yuma County, Arizona.

(C) All right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the lands comprising Section 24, Township 11 South, Range 24 West, G&SRBM, West 300 feet, excluding lands in the 60-foot border strip, in Yuma County, Arizona.

(D) All right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the lands comprising the East 300 feet of the Southeast Quarter of Section 15, Township 11 South, Range 24 West, G&SRBM, in Yuma County, Arizona.

(E) The right to use lands in the 60-foot border strip excluded under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), for ingress to and egress from the international boundary between the United States and Mexico.

(b) DEED COVENANTS AND CONDITIONS.—Any conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to the following covenants and conditions:

(1) A reservation of rights-of-way for ditches and canals constructed or to be constructed by the authority of the United States, this reservation being of the same character and scope as that created with respect to certain public lands by the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 391; 43 U.S.C. 945), as it has been, or may hereafter be amended.

(2) A leasehold interest in Lot 1, and the west 100 feet of Lot 2 in Section 23 for the operation