

All baseball fans, even those of the Los Angeles Dodgers, can appreciate Barry Bonds' breathtaking skill, record setting performance, and commitment to his community. During a difficult time for our country, he gave us a reason to return to the ballpark and cheer him on the way to a new home run record. All over the country, fans rose from their seats for every at-bat, celebrated each home run, and even booed their own teams when they intentionally walked him.

At 37 years old, he is in the prime of his baseball career and I am sure he will amaze and dazzle us many more times in the future.

Again, I congratulate Barry Bonds for his season and thank him for all that he has done for baseball and his community. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 179—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING ENSURING QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR OUR NATION'S VETERANS**

Mr. BOND submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 179

Whereas, President George W. Bush and the United States Senate designated this week, November 11 through November 17, 2001, as National Veterans Awareness Week.

Whereas, the United States owes a great debt of gratitude to the veterans who have made untold sacrifices for our Nation;

Whereas, it is the policy of the United States to provide quality healthcare to veterans who have served our Nation in times of peace and war;

Whereas, our Nation's government has an obligation to ensure that veterans receive quality healthcare each and every day of their lives and to protect them from abuse and neglect;

Whereas, the Department of Veterans Affairs has projected a significant increase in the demand for long-term healthcare for veterans over the next decade;

Whereas, the Department of Veterans Affairs has projected the number of veterans age 85 and older will increase threefold, reaching nearly 1.3 million by 2010;

Whereas, the prevalence of chronic health conditions and disabilities increases markedly at advanced age;

Whereas, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act of 1999, required that the Department of Veterans Affairs provided long-term healthcare to eligible veterans

Whereas, President George W. Bush issued an executive order creating a Presidential Task Force to improve healthcare for veterans and military retirees;

Whereas, the General Accounting Office has issued a report finding that the Department of Veterans Affairs cannot be assured that all veterans will receive care in private nursing facilities that meets the standards established by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas, the General Accounting Office has found that the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to strengthen its oversight of veterans placed in private nursing facilities;

Whereas, the Inspector General for the Department of Veterans Affairs has reported

since 1994 about issues that the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to address to improve the care of veterans in private nursing facilities;

Whereas, the Inspector General for the Department of Veterans Affairs has reported that at least one veteran died after being lost to the Department of Veterans Affairs oversight;

Whereas, the death of even one veteran due to substandard care is unacceptable: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That—*

(1) the Senate urges the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to work hand-in-hand with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to improve coordination among and between these agencies to provide quality healthcare for the men and women who have served in uniform, and specifically those who require long-term care; and

(2) the President and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should act promptly and deliberately to protect veterans from the dangers of abuse and neglect and to ensure that they receive the highest quality of long-term healthcare.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 180—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE 17TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS IN MURCIA, SPAIN**

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. HELMS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 180

Whereas certain marine species including Atlantic tunas, swordfish, marlins, sailfishes, and pelagic sharks migrate through broad oceanic expanses and traverse the coastal waters of many nations;

Whereas, of these highly migratory species, tuna and swordfish stocks in particular support major fisheries and are among the most highly valued of marine species;

Whereas due to the transboundary nomadic nature of these highly migratory species, effective efforts to conserve and manage these stocks require international cooperation and coordination;

Whereas the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) was established in 1966 to provide international management of highly migratory species;

Whereas the highly migratory species managed by ICCAT support extremely important commercial and recreational fisheries in the United States which are vital sources of income to United States fishing communities;

Whereas repeated violations of ICCAT conservation quotas and minimum size requirements, circumvention of compliance penalties and other actions have undermined the ability of ICCAT to establish, maintain and enforce conservation and rebuilding plans for overfished species of fish under ICCAT's management authority;

Whereas the latest scientific information suggests there is extensive mixing of bluefin tuna harvested in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean region with bluefin tuna harvested in the western Atlantic;

Whereas the current level of harvest of bluefin tuna harvested in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean is excessive and must be reduced, and that due to mixing, management measures in the east directly affect the west;

Whereas a failure of ICCAT member nations to enforce quotas, size limits and other conservation measures adversely affects United States commercial and recreational fishermen: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—*

(1) the United States should make full use of all appropriate diplomatic mechanisms, relevant international laws and agreements, and other appropriate mechanisms to ensure ICCAT member compliance with ICCAT conservation measures and quotas, for all species under ICCAT management authority, including bluefin tuna;

(2) the United States should press for improved monitoring, recording and reporting of harvesting and compliance information by contracting and non-contracting nations to ICCAT, including systems that will increase transparency of such reporting information, in order to provide the scientific information necessary for effective management of these stocks;

(3) the United States should encourage the Commission to identify nations that engage in actions that diminish the effectiveness of the Commission's fishery conservation program, including those engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing for these stocks; and

(4) the United States should encourage the Commission to adopt recommendations authorizing the use of enforceable measures, including World Trade Organization-consistent trade measures, to prevent such nations from taking actions that would undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management recommendations of the Commission.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I rise today to submit a resolution along with my colleague Ms. SNOWE of Maine, that calls on the United States to make full use of all appropriate diplomatic mechanisms, relevant international laws and agreements, and other appropriate mechanisms to ensure international compliance with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, ICCAT, conservation measures for all managed species.

This week a group of committed fishery managers, scientists and industry representatives began travel overseas to represent our nation at the 17th regular meeting of the ICCAT in Murcia, Spain.

This multinational fishery conservation and management body of over 40 nations has a mandate to ensure the sustainability of all Atlantic fisheries for swordfish, billfish and a number of tuna species. Such multinational cooperation is necessary to effectively conserve and manage these species, which migrate widely on the high seas and through jurisdictions of many coastal Atlantic nations. Effective unilateral management of species that migrate through multiple jurisdictions is simply not possible, as was specifically

recognized under the 1995 U.N. Agreement on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Species.

I am sad to report that many ICCAT member nations have failed to comply with basic ICCAT quota and minimum size regulations for several important species. The magnitude of these violations is so great that it could render useless all of the conservation plans that ICCAT have put in place to date. I find this very troubling, particularly given the tremendous burdens placed on U.S. fishermen to improve conservation of these species. They rightly object to being disadvantaged in the marketplace by nations who can sell fish more cheaply because their costs of compliance with the law are essentially zero.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that some ICCAT member nations have undermined essential conservation plans from the outset for several ICCAT species, by simply setting a quota that is in flagrant disregard of the best advice of the scientific community. These species include bluefin tuna and swordfish. Both of these species are extremely important to fishermen along the East Coast.

As I stated earlier compliance to basic conservation measures is absolutely essential to rebuilding our highly valuable stocks of swordfish and tuna. American fishermen have made great sacrifices for the conservation of bluefin tuna and swordfish in order to rebuild these stocks to their maximum sustainable yield. Nothing infuriates law-abiding U.S. fishermen more than having their future conservation gains squandered by nations that openly flout ICCAT's scientifically-based conservation standards. This simply cannot continue.

I strongly urge the U.S. delegation to this year's ICCAT to demand full compliance with all conservation measures, including sound, scientifically based quotas for all managed species. We have learned the hard way that the alternative to pro-active conservation is overfished and depleted stocks. These impacts go beyond financial costs to the fishing industry, and can place severe strains on local communities, national economies, and critical food supply chains. I do not need to remind you, of the devastating impacts overfishing caused in New England. In the 1980s our fishermen, like those of many ICCAT nations do today, believed that our oceans contained unlimited amounts of cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder. But by the early 1990s our stocks crashed causing severe economic harm to fishermen and their coastal communities. U.S. fishermen know firsthand what a fishery crash will mean and they are more than willing to do their part to ensure the same fate does not befall our international fisheries. The truth of the matter is, without compliance by all of ICCAT

member nations, rebuilding these species is a Sisyphean feat, an endless uphill battle. The U.S. cannot lift this boulder alone, we are but a small component of the total fishery. Sound, proactive conservation works, one need only look at Georges Bank today and see how far we have come with cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder.

The truth, is that the fishermen of the United States cannot carry the conservation load by themselves for highly migratory species. But even here in the United States we have shown that it is possible to revive multi-jurisdictional species through coordinated but mandatory conservation measures, the Atlantic states worked together to bring striped bass back from the edge, and the resulting striped bass population has exceeded all expectations. We must ensure that this is a model we successfully export to other nations, and ICCAT is the place we need to do it. The U.S. must demand from our fellow ICCAT members what we already demand from ourselves: use the best science when setting quotas and comply with quotas once they have been set. It is a simple rule, and it works.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleague, Senator KERRY, to submit a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the policy of the United States at the 17th Regular Meeting of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, ICCAT.

We are submitting this resolution today as our delegates prepare for the upcoming ICCAT meeting in Murcia, Spain which begins on November 12, 2001. At this meeting the ICCAT will set international quotas for highly migratory species and recommend conservation and sustainable management measures. The ICCAT is an international body and only has the authority to make recommendations to its member nations. As such, the effective management of highly migratory species, such as bluefin tuna, requires the cooperation of the member nations in this voluntary regime. The sustainable harvest and longterm viability of U.S. bluefin tuna fisheries depends on the compliance with management measures by all member nations. Unfortunately, several member nations routinely take actions that undermine the convention.

In some cases, the conservation efforts of other countries do not directly affect the United States and its fishing industry. That is not the case with highly migratory species, such as the ones managed through ICCAT. Recent scientific studies conducted cooperatively with U.S. fishermen have shown that bluefin tuna caught off the coast of the United States migrate to and from the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. This means that the traditional notion of the Eastern

Atlantic stock being separate and independent from the Western Atlantic stock is not accurate and the data indicate it is one mixed stock of fish. Therefore, overharvesting of bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic has a direct effect on United States fisheries.

This resolution expresses the Senate's belief that the United States needs to push for improved monitoring, reporting, and compliance with all ICCAT management plans. This will help all nations to identify those that have routinely acted counter to the recommendations of the ICCAT and aid enforcement efforts. It is important for the international community to understand which nations are undermining the recovery efforts of the ICCAT and take action to correct this problem. The United States should push for the necessary changes to create transparency in the conservation and management efforts of all members of the ICCAT. We need to know who is a dedicated partner in these efforts to conserve and sustainably manage highly migratory species.

As chair and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, and Fisheries, Senator KERRY and I have been dedicated to improving fisheries management. This resolution is a critical step in ensuring that the international management plan approved by the ICCAT in 1998 meets the sustainable harvest goals that we all fought for. I urge my colleagues to join us and support this resolution.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 82—AUTHORIZING THE 2002 WINTER OLYMPICS TORCH RELAY TO COME ONTO THE CAPITOL GROUNDS**

Mr. BENNETT (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DODD, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. STEVENS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 82

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*

**SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF THE RUNNING OF 2002 WINTER OLYMPICS TORCH RELAY ONTO THE CAPITOL GROUNDS.**

On December 21, 2001, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate, the 2002 Winter Olympics Torch Relay (in this resolution referred to as the "event") may come onto the Capitol Grounds as part of the ceremony of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITY OF CAPITOL POLICE BOARD.**

The Capitol Police Board shall take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the event.

**SEC. 3. CONDITIONS RELATING TO PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS.**

The Architect of the Capitol may prescribe conditions for physical preparations for the event.