

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 269

Designating the week of September 19 through September 26, 2015, as
“National Estuaries Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating the week of September 19 through September
26, 2015, as “National Estuaries Week”.

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States constitute a significant share of the economy of the United States, with as much as 42 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States generated in coastal shoreline counties;

Whereas the population of coastal shoreline counties in the United States increased by 39 percent from 1970 to 2010 and is projected to continue to increase;

Whereas not fewer than 1,900,000 jobs in the United States are supported by marine tourism and recreation;

Whereas the commercial fishing, recreational fishing, and seafood industries rely on healthy estuaries and directly support 1,681,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas in 2012—

(1) commercial fish landings generated \$5,100,000,000; and

(2) recreational anglers—

(A) took more than 70,000,000 fishing trips; and

(B) spent \$24,600,000,000;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes and storms;

Whereas the United States has lost more than 110,000,000 acres of wetland, or 50 percent of the wetland of the United States, since the first European settlers arrived;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone

of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 24 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate a National Estuary Program or contain a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 19 through September 26, 2015, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates the week of September 19
3 through September 26, 2015, as “National Estuaries Week”;

5 (2) supports the goals and ideals of National
6 Estuaries Week;

1 (3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to
2 sustaining employment in the United States and the
3 economic well-being and prosperity of the United
4 States;

5 (4) recognizes that persistent threats under-
6 mine the health of the estuaries of the United
7 States;

8 (5) applauds the work of national and commu-
9 nity organizations and public partners that promote
10 public awareness, understanding, protection, and
11 restoration of estuaries;

12 (6) reaffirms the support of the Senate for es-
13 tuaries, including the scientific study, preservation,
14 protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

15 (7) expresses the intent of the Senate to con-
16 tinue working to understand, protect, and restore
17 the estuaries of the United States.

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