

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 649

Raising awareness of lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*).

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 18, 2024

Mr. WELCH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Environment and Public Works

RESOLUTION

Raising awareness of lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*).

Whereas lake sturgeon are one of the largest North American freshwater fish and can live for 150 years or longer;

Whereas lake sturgeon are considered living fossils, as their lineage dates back to the time of dinosaurs, making them one of the oldest fish species still in existence;

Whereas lake sturgeon are slow to reproduce as they may not spawn until they are 15 to 25 years old and they only spawn every 4 years on average;

Whereas lake sturgeon are found across the Great Lakes, northeastern United States, and southeastern Canada;

Whereas lake sturgeon are bottom-dwelling fish that require extensive areas of shallow water to feed on a wide variety of organisms;

Whereas historical overfishing, invasive species, and habitat degradation have caused declines in the population of local lake sturgeon;

Whereas many States list lake sturgeon as an endangered, threatened, or otherwise protected species;

Whereas lake sturgeon serve an important role as an indicator of ecosystem health;

Whereas lake sturgeon attract the attention of the public because of their large size and prehistoric body;

Whereas many Federal agencies, States, Tribes, and local communities are collaborating on lake sturgeon management programs that are reestablishing healthy lake sturgeon populations; and

Whereas lake sturgeon have cultural importance for many indigenous communities, representing a traditional food source: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate encourages—

2 (1) continued collaboration among Federal,
3 State, Tribal, and other partners to manage and in-
4 crease lake sturgeon populations across their exten-
5 sive range;

6 (2) continued efforts to identify, protect, and
7 restore the habitat of lake sturgeon;

8 (3) continued efforts to prevent and control
9 invasive species and restore the reproductive habitat
10 of lake sturgeon;

11 (4) increased public awareness of lake sturgeon;

12 and

- 1 (5) education of anglers and local communities
- 2 on the proper ways to handle lake sturgeon if acci-
- 3 dentally caught.

