



2020 South Dakota Legislature
House Concurrent Resolution
6021
ENROLLED

AN ACT

**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the continued operation of the D.C. Booth
Historic National Fish Hatchery.**

WHEREAS, sport fishing routinely draws more than 268,000 participants in South Dakota annually, constituting an important component of South Dakota's economy, with angler expenditures exceeding \$313 million in 2011 and creating 3,032 jobs; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) received more than \$8.6 million in revenue from the sale of fishing licenses in fiscal year 2014, which represents a significant portion of the agency's budget; and

WHEREAS, trout produced in both state and federal hatchery systems and stocked into waters throughout South Dakota is important in maintaining sport fishing and its economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives, established in 1896, has stocked waters in South Dakota, including Ellsworth Air Force Base and tribal waters on the Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Cheyenne River, Standing Rock, and Yankton Sioux Reservations; and

WHEREAS, the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives serves as a key economic contributor to the city of Spearfish, bringing in \$2.1 million annually or a return of \$62 for every \$1 invested; and D.C. Booth is the city's top tourist attraction with over 160,000 visitors annually with \$840,000 being spent annually by nonresident visitors who attribute their visits to Spearfish to the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery; and

WHEREAS, over \$141,000 is brought in annually in local and state tax and fee revenue from the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives; and

WHEREAS, the staffing, expertise, resources, and a large portion of the funding for the operation and maintenance of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives is supplied by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and

WHEREAS, the USFWS completed a study predicting that the closure of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery will curtail the stocking of South Dakota's waters, entailing a loss of associated economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the continuation of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery's role as a trout producer, and an educational and tourist facility is extremely important to South Dakota's economy and sport fishing:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that:

- (1) The South Dakota Legislature supports the continued operation of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and urges the USFWS, in partnership with the SDGFP, to maintain its current mission of stocking South Dakota waters for recreational fishing and the recovery of threatened and endangered species;
- (2) The South Dakota Legislature supports the operation of the hatchery and adjacent federal lands in a manner that promotes public recreation and scientific research and educational activities; and
- (3) The South Dakota Legislature urges the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the SDGFP to work with the USFWS to protect, support, and improve the operation of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this House Concurrent Resolution be sent to all members of the South Dakota delegation to the United States Congress, the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Governor Kristi Noem.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

March 2, 2020
March 9, 2020

Steven G. Haugaard
Speaker of the House

Mary Lou Goehring
Chief Clerk

Larry Rhoden
President of the Senate

Kay Johnson
Secretary of the Senate