

TAPE FOR WEEK OF MARCH 5

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

THE EFFORTS OF STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES AND FISHERMEN TO PROTECT AND MANAGE OUR FISHERY RESOURCES BECOME MORE AND MORE IMPORTANT EACH YEAR. NOW, MORE THAN EVER, THESE AGENCIES AND SPORTSMEN NEED TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT FISHERY RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND THE ROLE OUR FISHERMAN PLAY IN THESE EFFORTS.

FISHING IS A MAJOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY AND IMPORTANT ECONOMIC RESOURCE IN WEST VIRGINIA. APPROXIMATELY, 360,000 FISHERMEN SPEND OVER 9.6 MILLION MANDAYS FISHING EACH YEAR IN OUR STATE, AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY FISHERMEN IN WEST VIRGINIA IS NEARLY \$136 MILLION ANNUALLY.

I HAVE JOINED AN EFFORT IN THE HOUSE TO PROMOTE THE IMPORTANT OF THIS SPORT IN THE RECREATIONAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF OUR SOCIETY, AND HOPES THAT IT WILL LEAD ~~XXX~~ TO THE PASSAGE . OF H.J. RES. 410, NATIONAL FISHING WEEK.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN, NICK RAHALL.