



American Fisheries Society

Organized 1870 to Promote the Conservation, Development and Wise Utilization of the Fisheries

GHASSAN N. RASSAM
Executive Director

DONALD C. JACKSON
President 2009-2010

WAYNE HUBERT
President Elect

WILLIAM L. FISHER
1st Vice President

JOHN BOREMAN
2nd Vice President

WILLIAM G. FRANZIN
Past President

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

May 3 2010

Dear Mr. President:

As Executive Director of the 9000 member American Fisheries Society (AFS), I urge you to support and eventually sign The Endocrine Disruption Prevention Act of 2009, introduced by Congressman Jim Moran (HB 4190) and Senator John Kerry (S2828). Our members have published many of the scientific studies indicating that endocrine disrupting chemicals are found throughout the Nation, including in high elevation and high latitude National Parks in the western U.S. These chemicals have resulted in the feminization of male fish at biochemical, cell, tissue, organ, and behavioral levels of biological organization. In some waters, fishery scientists can find no male fish. This has serious implications for the persistence of those fish populations and the people that depend on them for food, recreation, and income. Similar conditions have been observed in aquatic amphibians. And endocrine disrupting chemicals have the same effects on all vertebrates, especially if they occur in the blood and amniotic fluid of pregnant females or in daily work environments (e.g., of industrial, agricultural, or service workers).

Other scientific studies have shown that low-level exposures to endocrine disrupting chemicals are linked to many human disorders and diseases. These endocrine-related disorders place a huge burden on our families, our health care system, and our economy.

The AFS believes that the National Institutes of Health-Environmental Health Division, through its intramural and extramural research programs, has the capacity to advance and broaden the knowledge about endocrine disruption; to use that knowledge to develop comprehensive assays that can detect multiple endocrine disrupting outcomes; and to determine the level of concern regarding the potential to disrupt human and other vertebrate endocrine systems. With this information, regulatory agencies will be able to establish the health- and environmentally-protective measures that are so urgently needed. The main purpose of the program proposed in the bill is to develop reliable and reproducible methods to identify chemicals that can disrupt the vertebrate endocrine system. These protocols will:

- 1) address the full range of possible health outcomes (including reproductive, behavioral, intellectual, metabolic, and endocrine disorders);
- 2) be sensitive enough to detect effects at exposure levels relevant to human and aquatic vertebrate exposure (and not rely on the assumption that a lower dose produces less effect); and
- 3) consider the effects of exposure to multiple chemicals.



American Fisheries Society

Organized 1870 to Promote the Conservation, Development and Wise Utilization of the Fisheries

GHASSAN N. RASSAM
Executive Director

DONALD C. JACKSON
President 2009-2010

WAYNE HUBERT
President Elect

WILLIAM L. FISHER
1st Vice President

JOHN BOREMAN
2nd Vice President

WILLIAM G. FRANZIN
Past President

For these reasons, as well as others outlined in the proposed Act, I again urge you to actively support and eventually sign this critical legislation.

Sincerely yours,

Ghassan Rassam,
Executive Director

Cc/Sen. Kerry
Congressman Moran