



Photo Courtesy of Congressman John D. Dingell

John Dingell

John Dingell (1894-1955) was elected to Congress in 1932 from Michigan. As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee he worked on many social insurance program initiatives, and was one of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's key allies in the passage of the Social Security Act (1935). In 1947, Congressman Dingell first proposed having anglers support conservation through fishing purchases. An avid sportsman himself, Dingell knew that hunters had supported wildlife conservation efforts since the early 1930s. The monies collected under the authority of the proposed legislation were to be returned to the states to help fund sport fisheries programs. While the bill did not pass, it ignited support with the growing number of sport fisherman around the country. In 1950, Congressman Dingell and Senator Edwin Johnson (CO) introduced a revised version and President Truman signed the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act into law on August 9, 1950. The Dingell-Johnson Act has been a spectacular success, supporting conservation of fishery resources for more than fifty years. Congressman Dingell epitomized a New Deal for American Conservation.