

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2106

To provide exclusive funding to support fisheries and the communities that rely upon them, to clear unnecessary regulatory burdens and streamline Federal fisheries management, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2015

Mr. GUINTA (for himself and Mr. KEATING) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide exclusive funding to support fisheries and the communities that rely upon them, to clear unnecessary regulatory burdens and streamline Federal fisheries management, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Fisheries Investment
5 and Regulatory Relief Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 3. REGIONAL FISHERIES INVESTMENT GRANT PRO-**
 2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) REGIONAL FISHERIES INVESTMENT GRANT PRO-
 4 GRAM AND FISHERY INVESTMENT PLANS.—Section 2 of
 5 the Act of August 11, 1939 (commonly known as the
 6 “Saltonstall-Kennedy Act”) (15 U.S.C. 713e–3), is
 7 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

8 “(c) STRENGTHENING REGIONAL FISHERIES MAN-
 9 AGEMENT.—

10 “(1) FISHERY INVESTMENT COMMITTEES.—

11 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each Council
 12 shall establish and maintain, under the author-
 13 ity of section 302(g) of the Magnuson-Stevens
 14 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
 15 U.S.C. 1852(g)), a fishery investment com-
 16 mittee. Each fishery investment committee shall
 17 be comprised of not more than 13 individuals.

18 “(B) AUTHORITY.—Each fishery invest-
 19 ment committee shall—

20 “(i) develop a regional fishery invest-
 21 ment plan under subsection (c)(2);

22 “(ii) review grant applications and
 23 projects to implement its regional fishery
 24 investment plan; and

25 “(iii) make recommendations, based
 26 on its findings, to the Council on grant ap-

1 ber has a financial interest that would re-
2 quire disclosure under section 302(j)(2) of
3 the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conserva-
4 tion and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
5 1852(j)(2)).

6 “(D) COMPOSITION.—Each fishery invest-
7 ment committee shall be multi-disciplinary, re-
8 flect the geographic balance of the Council, and
9 include at least 1 representative of—

10 “(i) the commercial fishing commu-
11 nity;

12 “(ii) the private recreational angling
13 community;

14 “(iii) the for-profit charter fishing
15 community;

16 “(iv) the public interest in marine
17 conservation who—

18 “(I) does not derive an annual
19 income from commercial or rec-
20 reational fishing; and

21 “(II) is not employed by any per-
22 son who derives an annual income
23 from commercial or recreational fish-
24 ing;

1 search, in conjunction with the National
2 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
3 involving fishery participants, academic in-
4 stitutions, and other interested parties;

5 “(ii) efforts to improve the collection
6 and accuracy of fishery catch data, includ-
7 ing—

8 “(I) expanding the use of, and
9 research and development on, catch
10 monitoring and reporting programs
11 and technology, both at-sea and shore-
12 side, including the use of electronic
13 monitoring devices and satellite track-
14 ing systems; and

15 “(II) improving data collection
16 for recreational fisheries, including
17 improvements to the Marine Rec-
18 reational Fishery Statistics Survey in
19 accordance with section 401(g)(3) of
20 the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
21 servation and Management Act (16
22 U.S.C. 1881(g)(3));

23 “(iii) analyzing the social and eco-
24 nomic impacts of fishery management deci-
25 sions;

1 “(D) be submitted to the Secretary for re-
2 view to ensure the plan is consistent with the
3 requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
4 Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
5 1801 et seq.), and this section;

6 “(E) be published in the Federal Register
7 and made available for public comment; and

8 “(F) become effective not later than 60
9 days after the date of receipt unless the Sec-
10 retary makes a negative consistency finding.

11 “(3) NEGATIVE CONSISTENCY FINDING.—If the
12 Secretary makes a negative consistency finding
13 under paragraph (2)(F), each portion of the plan
14 that is the subject of the negative consistency find-
15 ing shall not be effective until it is made consistent
16 by the regional fishery investment committee and
17 the Council.

18 “(4) REGIONAL FISHERY INVESTMENT GRANT
19 PROGRAM.—Not later than 30 days after the date of
20 enactment of the Fisheries Investment and Regu-
21 latory Relief Act of 2015, the Secretary shall estab-
22 lish an annual competitive grant program to provide
23 funds for projects, activities, and research that ad-
24 vance the regional priorities that are included in the
25 regional fishery investment plans.

1 healthy United States fish populations and promotes
2 sustainable fisheries. The program shall address
3 fisheries needs and problems described under sub-
4 section (e)(1)(B).”; and

5 (2) in paragraph (2)—

6 (A) by striking “, after consultation with
7 appropriate representatives of the fishing indus-
8 try,”;

9 (B) by striking “Merchant Marine and
10 Fisheries” and inserting “Natural Resources”;

11 (C) in subparagraph (A), by striking “de-
12 velopment goals and funding priorities under
13 paragraph (1)” and inserting “investment pri-
14 orities”;

15 (D) in subparagraph (B), by striking “all
16 pending projects assisted under subsection (e)”
17 and all that follows and inserting “the projects
18 funded by the Secretary under this subsection;
19 and”;

20 (E) in subparagraph (C), by striking “each
21 project assisted” and all that follows and insert-
22 ing “how well the project met the fisheries
23 needs described in subsection (e)(1).”.

24 (c) DIVISION OF RESOURCES.—Section 2(e) of the
25 Act of August 11, 1939 (commonly known as the

1 problems, as identified by the Secretary, as fol-
2 lows:

3 “(i) Up to one-fifth shall be allocated
4 to, and apportioned as the Secretary deems
5 appropriate among, the Atlantic States
6 Marine Fisheries Commission, the Gulf
7 States Marine Fisheries Commission, and
8 the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Com-
9 mission.

10 “(ii) Up to one-fifth shall be allocated
11 to seafood promotion and sustainable cer-
12 tification efforts.

13 “(iii) Up to one-fifth shall be allocated
14 to improve fisheries’ management through
15 research, monitoring or evaluation, and
16 modification of regulations and procedures.

17 “(iv) Up to one-fifth shall be allocated
18 to fisheries’ disasters, and shoreside infra-
19 structure and access needs.

20 “(v) Up to one-fifth shall be allocated
21 to other special needs, including manage-
22 ment of highly migratory species and inter-
23 national fisheries.

24 “(C) Any amounts remaining after the an-
25 nual fiscal year allocations made pursuant to

1 meet the conservation and management require-
2 ments of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conserva-
3 tion and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)
4 as a result of funding provided under this section.”.

5 **SEC. 4. FOCUSING ASSETS FOR IMPROVED FISHERIES OUT-**
6 **COMES.**

7 Section 2(b) of the Act of August 11, 1939 (com-
8 monly known as the “Saltonstall-Kennedy Act”) (15
9 U.S.C. 713c-3(b)), is amended—

10 (1) by striking “(1)”;

11 (2) by striking “and ending on June 30,
12 1957,”;

13 (3) by striking “moneys” the first place it ap-
14 pears and inserting “monies”; and

15 (4) by striking “shall be maintained in a sepa-
16 rate fund only for” and all that follows and inserting
17 “and shall only be used for the purposes described
18 under subsection (c).”.

19 **SEC. 5. REGULATION AND PROCEDURE STREAMLINING.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the 2 fiscal years following
21 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Com-
22 merce shall use funds available under section 2(e)(2) of
23 the Act of August 11, 1939 (commonly known as the
24 “Saltonstall-Kennedy Act”) (15 U.S.C. 713e-3), to con-
25 duct a review of the regulations and procedures used to

Tab G, No. 6 (c)

Tab G, No. 6 (b)

Tab G, No. 6 (d)