

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1826

To reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and for other purposes.

---

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2015

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

---

## A BILL

To reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 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 “Fishing Economy Im-

5       provement Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. REFERENCES.**

7       Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in

8       this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms

9       of an amendment to, or repeal of, a provision, the ref-

10       erence shall be considered to be made to a provision of

1 the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-  
2 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

3 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS.**

4 Section 3 (16 U.S.C. 1802) is amended—

5 (1) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
6 lowing:

7 “(1a) The term ‘artisanal fishing’ means sub-  
8 sistence or small scale traditional fishing involving  
9 fishing households (as opposed to commercial com-  
10 panies)—

11 “(A) using a relatively small amount of  
12 capital and energy and relatively small fishing  
13 vessels (if any);

14 “(B) making short fishing trips, close to  
15 shore; and

16 “(C) mainly for local consumption.”;

17 (2) by inserting after paragraph (27) the fol-  
18 lowing:

19 “(27a) The term ‘marine aquaculture’ means  
20 the propagation and rearing of aquatic species in  
21 controlled or selected environments in the exclusive  
22 economic zone.”; and

23 (3) in paragraph (16), by adding at the end the  
24 following: “Such term does not include marine aqua-  
25 culture.”.

1 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO HIGHLY MIGRATORY**  
2 **SPECIES.**

3 (a) PARTICIPATION FOR UNITED STATES TERRI-  
4 TORIES.—Section 102 (16 U.S.C. 1812) is amended by  
5 adding at the end the following:

6 “(d) UNITED STATES TERRITORIES.—The Secretary  
7 shall ensure participation for, and consider the interests  
8 of, United States territories and their fishing communities  
9 in managing highly migratory species that frequent the  
10 exclusive economic zone adjoining such territories.”.

11 (b) APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSION FOR THE CON-  
12 SERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY  
13 FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC  
14 OCEAN.—Section 503 of the Western and Central Pacific  
15 Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (16 U.S.C.  
16 6902) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting  
17 the following:

18 “(a) UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States shall be  
20 represented on the Commission by 5 United States  
21 Commissioners. The President shall appoint individ-  
22 uals to serve on the Commission at the pleasure of  
23 the President. In making the appointments, the  
24 President shall select Commissioners from among in-  
25 dividuals who are knowledgeable or experienced con-

1 cerning highly migratory fish stocks in the Western  
2 and Central Pacific Ocean.

3 “(2) REQUIRED APPOINTMENTS.—Of the Com-  
4 missioners appointed under paragraph (1)—

5 “(A) one shall be an officer or employee of  
6 the Department of Commerce;

7 “(B) one shall be the chairman or another  
8 member of the Western Pacific Fishery Man-  
9 agement Council;

10 “(C) one shall be the chairman or another  
11 member of the Pacific Fishery Management  
12 Council; and

13 “(D) one shall be a resident of American  
14 Samoa, Guam, or the Commonwealth of the  
15 Northern Mariana Islands who is not a member  
16 of the Western Pacific Fishery Management  
17 Council.

18 “(3) TERMS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term of a Com-  
20 missioner shall be 3 years.

21 “(B) COUNCIL APPOINTEES.—A Commis-  
22 sioner who is appointed as a member of the Pa-  
23 cific Fishery Management Council or Western  
24 Pacific Fishery Management Council and whose  
25 term on that Council ends during his or her

1 term as Commissioner may complete the cur-  
2 rent term as Commissioner but shall not be eli-  
3 gible for reappointment.

4 “(C) LIMIT ON CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—An  
5 individual appointed under paragraph (1) shall  
6 not be eligible to serve more than 2 consecutive  
7 terms as a Commissioner.

8 “(D) ROTATION OF TERRITORIAL AP-  
9 POINTMENTS.—Appointments under paragraph  
10 (2)(D) shall be rotated among residents of  
11 American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern  
12 Mariana Islands to ensure equal representation  
13 of such territories.

14 “(4) CHAIRMAN.—The United States Commis-  
15 sioners may adopt such rules of procedure as they  
16 find necessary and to select a chairman from among  
17 such Commissioners who are officers or employees of  
18 the United States Government.”.

19 (c) USE OF WESTERN PACIFIC SUSTAINABLE FISH-  
20 ERIES FUND.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 204(e)(7) (16  
22 U.S.C. 1824(e)(7)) is amended—

23 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “ex-  
24 cept as provided in subparagraph (D),” after  
25 “(A)”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

2 (i) by inserting “except as provided in  
3 subparagraph (D),” after “(B)”;

4 (ii) by striking “and” after the semi-  
5 colon at the end;

6 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

7 (i) by inserting “except as provided in  
8 subparagraph (D),” after “(C)”;

9 (ii) by striking the period at the end  
10 and inserting “; and”;

11 (D) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(D) in the case of funds that are attrib-  
13 utable to a particular U.S. Participating Terri-  
14 tory under section 113 of division B of Public  
15 Law 112–55 (125 Stat. 603) and any regula-  
16 tion approving or otherwise giving effect to such  
17 agreement, or any subsequent agreement, the  
18 Treasury of the U.S. Participating Territory to  
19 which those funds are attributed under this  
20 Act.”.

21 (2) CATCH LIMIT ARRANGEMENT FUNDING.—

22 Section 113(b) of division B of Public Law 112–55  
23 (125 Stat. 603) is amended—

1 (A) by striking “Western Pacific Regional  
2 Fisheries Management Council” and inserting  
3 “Secretary”;

4 (B) by adding “and” after the semicolon  
5 at the end of paragraph (1);

6 (C) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) by striking “use” and inserting  
8 “transfer”;

9 (ii) by striking “only”; and

10 (iii) by striking “; and” and inserting  
11 “or for such other purposes as the govern-  
12 ment of the U.S. Participating Territory  
13 determines.”; and

14 (D) by striking paragraph (3).

15 **SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO REGIONAL FISHERY**  
16 **MANAGEMENT COUNCILS.**

17 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 302 (16 U.S.C. 1852) is  
18 amended as follows:

19 (1) In subsection (a)(1)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

21 (i) by striking “18” and inserting  
22 “19”; and

23 (ii) by inserting before the period at  
24 the end the following: “and one appointed  
25 by the Secretary who is a member of the

1 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
2 nominated by the members of such Council  
3 to represent the interests of participants in  
4 fisheries under the jurisdiction of such  
5 Council”; and

6 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

7 (i) by striking “21” and inserting  
8 “22”; and

9 (ii) by inserting before the period at  
10 the end the following: “and one appointed  
11 by the Secretary who is a member of the  
12 New England Fishery Management Coun-  
13 cil nominated by the members of such  
14 Council to represent the interests of par-  
15 ticipants in fisheries under the jurisdiction  
16 of such Council”.

17 (2) In subsection (a)(2), by adding at the end  
18 the following: “Each Council shall reflect the inter-  
19 ests of any Indian tribes, Alaskan Natives, Pacific  
20 Insular Areas, and other individuals engaged in  
21 artisanal fishing within the Council’s jurisdiction.”.

22 (3) In subsection (b)(2)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or  
24 recreational” and inserting “, recreational, or  
25 artisanal fishing”; and



1 (B) in subparagraph (C), in the second  
2 sentence, by inserting “, and in the case of the  
3 Governor of Alaska with the artisanal fishing  
4 interests of the State,” after “interests of the  
5 State”.

6 (4) In subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking “and  
7 recreational” and inserting “, recreational, and  
8 artisanal”.

9 (5) In subsection (e), by adding at the end the  
10 following:

11 “(6) To the extent possible, each Council shall  
12 minimize the amount and cost of member and staff  
13 travel by use of electronic means for remote partici-  
14 pation during meetings, including for voting.”.

15 (b) REPORT ON WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MAN-  
16 AGEMENT COUNCIL.—The Comptroller General of the  
17 United States shall within 180 days after the date of the  
18 enactment of this Act investigate and report to the Con-  
19 gress on the operations of the Western Pacific Fishery  
20 Management Council. Such investigation and report shall  
21 include—

22 (1) a full accounting of all grant money re-  
23 ceived and distributed by the Council for the 10  
24 years preceding the enactment of this Act, including

1 an analysis of the deliverables and results of all  
2 grant-funded projects; and

3 (2) the involvement of Council staff in the prep-  
4 aration and submission of the 2012 petition to re-  
5 move protections for the green sea turtle under the  
6 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et  
7 seq.).

8 **SEC. 6. TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC PROCESS.**

9 (a) **ADVICE.**—Section 302(g)(1)(B) (16 U.S.C.  
10 1852(g)(1)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
11 lowing: “Each scientific and statistical committee shall de-  
12 velop such advice in a transparent manner and allow for  
13 public involvement in the process.”.

14 (b) **MEETINGS.**—Section 302(i)(2) (16 U.S.C.  
15 1852(i)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(G) Each Council shall make available on  
17 the Internet website of the Council—

18 “(i) to the extent practicable, a Web  
19 cast or a live audio or video broadcast of  
20 each meeting of the Council, and of the  
21 Council Coordination Committee estab-  
22 lished under subsection (l), that is not  
23 closed in accordance with paragraph (3);  
24 and

1           “(ii) an audio or video recording (if  
2           the meeting was in person or by video con-  
3           ference), or a searchable audio recording  
4           or written transcript, of each meeting of  
5           the Council and of the meetings of commit-  
6           tees referred to in section 302(g)(1)(B) of  
7           the Council, by not later than 30 days  
8           after the conclusion of the meeting.

9           “(H) The Secretary shall maintain and  
10          make available to the public an archive of  
11          Council and scientific and statistical committee  
12          meeting audios, videos, and transcripts made  
13          available under clauses (i) and (ii) subpara-  
14          graph (G).”.

15 **SEC. 7. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO FISHERY MANAGE-**  
16 **MENT PLANS.**

17          (a) **INCLUSION OF ARTISANAL FISHING SECTORS.—**  
18          Section 303(a)(13) (16 U.S.C. 1853(a)(13)) is amended  
19          by inserting “artisanal,” after “include a description of  
20          the commercial, recreational,”.

21          (b) **STATE DUNGENESS CRAB MANAGEMENT AU-**  
22          **THORITY.—**Section 203 of Public Law 105–384 (16  
23          U.S.C. 1856 note) is amended—

24                  (1) by striking subsection (i); and

1           (2) by redesignating subsection (j) as sub-  
2           section (i).

3 **SEC. 8. IMPROVING FISHERIES DATA COLLECTION.**

4           (a) **ELECTRONIC MONITORING.**—

5               (1) **ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE.**—

6                   (A) **REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of  
7                   Commerce shall issue guidance regarding the  
8                   use of electronic monitoring for the purposes of  
9                   monitoring fisheries that are subject to the  
10                   Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and  
11                   Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

12                   (B) **CONTENT.**—The guidance shall—

13                       (i) distinguish between monitoring for  
14                       data collection and research purposes and  
15                       monitoring for compliance and enforcement  
16                       purposes; and

17                       (ii) include minimum criteria, objec-  
18                       tives, or performance standards for elec-  
19                       tronic monitoring.

20                   (C) **PROCESS.**—In issuing the guidance the  
21                   Secretary shall—

22                       (i) consult with the Regional Fishery  
23                       Management Councils and interstate fish-  
24                       ery management commissions;

- 1 (ii) publish the proposed guidance;  
2 and  
3 (iii) provide an opportunity for the  
4 submission by the public of comments on  
5 the proposed guidance.

6 (2) IMPLEMENTATION OF MONITORING.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
8 graph (B), and after the issuance of the final  
9 guidance, a Council, or the Secretary for fish-  
10 eries referred to in section 302(a)(3) of the  
11 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and  
12 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(3)), may,  
13 in accordance with the guidance, on a fishery-  
14 by-fishery basis and consistent with the existing  
15 objectives and management goals of a fishery  
16 management plan and the Act for a fishery  
17 issued by the Council or the Secretary, respec-  
18 tively, amend such plan—

- 19 (i) to incorporate electronic moni-  
20 toring as an alternative tool for data col-  
21 lection and monitoring purposes or for  
22 compliance and enforcement purposes (or  
23 both); and

1 (ii) to allow for the replacement of a  
2 percentage of on-board observers with elec-  
3 tronic monitoring.

4 (B) COMPARABILITY.—Subparagraph (A)  
5 shall apply to a fishery only if the Council or  
6 Secretary, respectively, determines that such  
7 monitoring will yield comparable data collection  
8 and compliance results.

9 (3) PILOT PROJECTS.—Before the issuance of  
10 final guidance, a Council, or the Secretary for fish-  
11 eries referred to in section 302(a)(3) of the Magnu-  
12 son-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management  
13 Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(3)), may, subject to the re-  
14 quirements of such Act, on a fishery-by-fishery  
15 basis, and consistent with the existing objectives and  
16 management goals of a fishery management plan for  
17 a fishery issued by the Council or the Secretary, re-  
18 spectively, conduct a pilot project for the use of elec-  
19 tronic monitoring for the fishery.

20 (4) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall issue final  
21 guidance under this subsection by not later than 12  
22 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

23 (b) VIDEO AND ACOUSTIC SURVEY TECH-  
24 NOLOGIES.—The Secretary shall work with the Regional  
25 Fishery Management Councils and nongovernmental enti-

1 ties to develop and implement the use pursuant to the  
2 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-  
3 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) of video survey tech-  
4 nologies and expanded use of acoustic survey technologies.

5 **SEC. 9. COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT PRO-**  
6 **GRAM.**

7 (a) PLAN.—Section 318 (16 U.S.C. 1867) is amend-  
8 ed—

9 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(1)” before  
10 the first sentence, and by adding at the end the fol-  
11 lowing:

12 “(2) Within one year after the date of enactment of  
13 the Fishing Economy Improvement Act, and after con-  
14 sultation with the Councils, the Secretary shall publish a  
15 plan for implementing and conducting the program estab-  
16 lished in paragraph (1). Such plan shall identify and de-  
17 scribe critical regional fishery management and research  
18 needs, including for data-poor stocks for which limited sci-  
19 entific or commercial information is available, possible  
20 projects that may address those needs, and estimated  
21 costs for such projects. The plan shall be revised and up-  
22 dated every 5 years, and updated plans shall include a  
23 brief description of projects that were funded in the prior  
24 5-year period and the research and management needs  
25 that were addressed by those projects.”;

1           (2) in subsection (b), by striking “in consulta-  
2           tion with the Secretary.” and inserting “. Each  
3           Council shall provide a list of such needs to the Sec-  
4           retary on an annual basis, identifying and  
5           prioritizing such needs.”;

6           (3) in subsection (c)—

7                 (A) in the heading, by striking “FUNDING”  
8                 and inserting “PRIORITIES”; and

9                 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking all after  
10                “including” and inserting an em dash, followed  
11                on the next line by the following:

12                         “(A) the use of fishing vessels or acoustic  
13                         or other marine technology;

14                         “(B) expanding the use of electronic catch  
15                         reporting programs and technology; and

16                         “(C) improving monitoring and observer  
17                         coverage through the expanded use of electronic  
18                         monitoring devices and satellite tracking sys-  
19                         tems such as vessel monitoring systems (VMS)  
20                         on small vessels.”; and

21           (4) by adding at the end the following:

22                 “(g) ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING.—The Secretary  
23                 may, using the authority established under section 208 of  
24                 Public Law 109–479 (16 U.S.C. 1891b), accept and use  
25                 funding from other Federal agencies, academic institu-



1 tions, persons, including fishery participants, and non-  
 2 governmental organizations to expand cooperative fish-  
 3 eries research and management efforts, including efforts  
 4 to improve data collection in recreational fisheries, for the  
 5 purposes of improving management certainty and out-  
 6 comes.”.

7 (b) ALLOCATION EXCEPTION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 208 of the Magnu-  
 9 son-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management  
 10 Reauthorization Act of 2006 (16 U.S.C. 1891b) is  
 11 amended—

12 (A) in the section heading, by inserting  
 13 “**ZEKE GRADER**” before “**FISHERIES CON-**  
 14 **SERVATION AND MANAGEMENT FUND**”;

15 (B) in subsection (a), by inserting “Zeke  
 16 Grader” before “Fisheries Conservation and  
 17 Management Fund”;

18 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “ Fishery  
 19 Conservation and Management Fund” each  
 20 place it appears and inserting “Zeke Grader  
 21 Fisheries Conservation and Management  
 22 Fund”; and

23 (D) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(f) ALLOCATION EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding  
 25 subsection (d), the Secretary may apportion monies from

1 the Fund to a specific project or region if such monies  
 2 were identified by the Council that designated them for  
 3 inclusion in the Fund under subsection (c)(1), or by the  
 4 appropriation Act, State, public source, or nonprofit or or-  
 5 ganization from which received under subsection (c)(2), as  
 6 being deposited for that specific project or region.”.

7           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
 8 tents is amended by striking the item relating to sec-  
 9 tion 208 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 208. Zeke Grader Fisheries Conservation and Management Fund.”.

10           (3) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law,  
 11 map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of  
 12 the United States to the “Fisheries Conservation  
 13 and Management Fund” is deemed to be a reference  
 14 to the “Zeke Grader Fisheries Conservation and  
 15 Management Fund”.

16 **SEC. 10. GULF OF MEXICO FISHERIES COOPERATIVE RE-**  
 17 **SEARCH AND RED SNAPPER MANAGEMENT.**

18           (a) REPORTING AND DATA COLLECTION PRO-  
 19 GRAM.—The Secretary of Commerce shall—

20           (1) in conjunction with the States, the Gulf of  
 21 Mexico Fishery Management Council, and the rec-  
 22 reational fishing sectors, develop and implement a  
 23 real-time reporting and data collection program for  
 24 the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery using avail-  
 25 able technology; and

1           (2) make implementation of this subsection a  
2           priority for funds received by the Secretary and allo-  
3           cated to the Gulf of Mexico region under section 2  
4           of the Act of August 11, 1939 (commonly known as  
5           the “Saltonstall-Kennedy Act”) (15 U.S.C. 713c–3).

6           (b) STOCK SURVEYS AND STOCK ASSESSMENTS.—  
7           The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the National  
8           Marine Fisheries Service Regional Administrator of the  
9           Southeast Regional Office, shall for purposes of the Mag-  
10          nuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act  
11          (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)—

12           (1) develop a schedule of stock surveys and  
13           stock assessments for the Gulf of Mexico Region and  
14           the South Atlantic Region for the 5-year period be-  
15           ginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and  
16           for every 5-year period thereafter;

17           (2) direct the Southeast Science Center Direc-  
18           tor to implement such schedule; and

19           (3) in such development and implementation—

20                   (A) give priority to those stocks that are  
21                   commercially or recreationally important; and

22                   (B) ensure that each such important stock  
23                   is surveyed at least every 5 years.

24           (c) USE OF FISHERIES INFORMATION IN STOCK AS-  
25          SESSMENTS.—The Southeast Science Center Director

1 shall ensure that fisheries information made available  
2 through fisheries programs funded under Public Law  
3 112–141 is incorporated as soon as possible into any fish-  
4 eries stock assessments conducted after the date of the  
5 enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 11. RECREATIONAL FISHING DATA.**

7 (a) RECREATIONAL DATA COLLECTION.—Section  
8 401(g) (16 U.S.C. 1881(g)) is amended by redesignating  
9 paragraph (4) as paragraph (5), and by inserting after  
10 paragraph (3) the following:

11 “(4) FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIPS.—

12 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary  
13 shall establish partnerships with States to de-  
14 velop best practices for implementation of State  
15 programs that are exempted under paragraph  
16 (2).

17 “(B) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall de-  
18 velop guidance, in cooperation with the States,  
19 that details best practices for administering  
20 State programs that are exempted under para-  
21 graph (2), and provide such guidance to the  
22 States.

23 “(C) BIENNIAL REPORT.—The Secretary  
24 shall submit to the Congress and publish bien-  
25 nial reports that include—

1           “(i) the estimated accuracy of the reg-  
2           istry program established under paragraph  
3           (1) and of State programs that are ex-  
4           empted under paragraph (2);

5           “(ii) priorities for improving rec-  
6           reational fishing data collection; and

7           “(iii) an explanation of any use of in-  
8           formation collected by such State programs  
9           and by the Secretary, including a descrip-  
10          tion of any consideration given to the in-  
11          formation by the Secretary.

12          “(D) STATE GRANT PROGRAM.—The Sec-  
13          retary shall make grants to States to improve  
14          implementation of State programs consistent  
15          with this subsection. The Secretary shall  
16          prioritize such grants based on the ability of the  
17          grant to improve the quality and accuracy of  
18          such programs.”.

19          (b) STUDY OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES DATA.—

20                 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after  
21          the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
22          of Commerce shall enter into an agreement with the  
23          National Research Council of the National Academy  
24          of Sciences to study the implementation of the pro-  
25          grams described in section 401 of the Magnuson-

1 Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act  
2 (16 U.S.C. 1881). The study shall—

3 (A) provide an updated assessment of rec-  
4 reational survey methods established or im-  
5 proved since the publication of the Council’s re-  
6 port entitled “Review of Recreational Fisheries  
7 Survey Methods (2006)”;

8 (B) evaluate the extent to which the rec-  
9 ommendations made in that report were imple-  
10 mented pursuant to subsection (g)(3)(B) of  
11 that section; and

12 (C) examine any limitations of the Marine  
13 Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey and the  
14 marine recreational information program estab-  
15 lished under subsection (g)(3)(A) of that sec-  
16 tion.

17 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after en-  
18 tering into an agreement under paragraph (1) the  
19 Secretary shall submit a report to Congress on the  
20 results of the study under paragraph (1).

21 **SEC. 12. MARINE AQUACULTURE.**

22 (a) REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.—Within 1 year after  
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
24 Commerce, in consultation with the Secretaries of the  
25 Army, the Interior, and Health and Human Services, and

1 with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection  
2 Agency, shall submit a report to Congress detailing a com-  
3 prehensive framework for permitting and regulating ma-  
4 rine aquaculture operations.

5 (b) FUNDING.—The report under subsection (a) shall  
6 include recommendations for making any regulatory pro-  
7 gram self-sustaining without additional appropriations.

8 (c) LIMITATION ON ADVERSE EFFECTS.—The report  
9 shall include detailed recommendations for how to ensure  
10 that marine aquaculture operations do not have any ad-  
11 verse effect on fisheries or fisheries ecosystems, including  
12 on water quality, habitat, forage, genetic diversity, and re-  
13 siliency.

14 **SEC. 13. SHORESIDE COMMERCIAL FISHING SUPPORT**  
15 **GRANTS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.)  
17 is amended by adding at the end the following:

18 **“SEC. 321. SHORESIDE COMMERCIAL FISHING SUPPORT**  
19 **GRANTS.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make com-  
21 petitive grants to persons eligible under subsection (b) to  
22 support, pursuant to the national standard set forth in  
23 section 301(8), programs that address needs of fishing  
24 communities by—

1           “(1) providing health promotion and disease  
2 prevention services, including—

3           “(A) preventive health services and assess-  
4 ments;

5           “(B) mental health services and assess-  
6 ments;

7           “(C) substance abuse prevention, treat-  
8 ment, rehabilitation, and education; or

9           “(D) immunization services;

10          “(2) providing financial planning education and  
11 other services to improve the financial stability of  
12 families and small businesses, including regarding  
13 budgeting, forecasting, retirement planning, college  
14 financing, or estate planning;

15          “(3) supporting positive community response to  
16 tragedies at sea; or

17          “(4) workforce development training, includ-  
18 ing—

19           “(A) community health worker training for  
20 fishing community members;

21           “(B) apprentice programs to train inexpe-  
22 rienced fishermen participating in sustainable  
23 fisheries; and

24           “(C) volunteer oil handling classes taught  
25 by an experienced commercial vessel operator.



1       “(b) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—Any municipality, port  
2 authority, other appropriate public entity, not-for-profit  
3 organization, or other qualified person, that provides  
4 shoreside commercial fishing support shall be eligible for  
5 a grant under this section.

6       “(c) SURVEY OF NEEDS.—The Secretary shall con-  
7 duct demographic surveys of commercial fishermen and  
8 their family members to identify needs of fishing commu-  
9 nities that can be addressed by grants authorized by this  
10 section.

11       “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For  
12 grants under this section there is authorized to be appro-  
13 priated to the Secretary \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal  
14 years 2016 through 2025.”.

15       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
16 in the first section is amended by adding at the end the  
17 following:

“Sec. 321. Shoreside commercial fishing support grants.”.

18 **SEC. 14. SALTONSTALL-KENNEDY ACT REFORM.**

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

22               (1) by striking “(1)”;

23               (2) by striking “and ending on June 30,  
24       1957,”;

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

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

7 **SEC. 15. FISHERIES DISASTER DECLARATIONS.**

8           (a) TREATMENT OF CALIFORNIA PROCLAMATION  
9 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER.—The Proclamation of State  
10 Emergency and associated Executive Order issued by Gov-  
11 ernor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. on January 17, 2014, shall  
12 be considered a request by the Governor for the Secretary  
13 of Commerce to use the Secretary’s authorities under sec-  
14 tion 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conserva-  
15 tion and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)) to deter-  
16 mine that a fishery resource disaster exists for fisheries  
17 that originate within the Central Valley Project service  
18 area.

19           (b) DEADLINE FOR DETERMINATION.—

20           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 312(a) (16 U.S.C.  
21 1861a(a)) is amended by redesignating paragraphs  
22 (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), and  
23 by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

24           “(2) The Secretary shall make a determination  
25 regarding a request from a Governor under para-

1 graph (1) within 90 days after receiving the re-  
2 quest.”.

3 (2) APPLICATION WITH RESPECT TO CALI-  
4 FORNIA PROCLAMATION AND EXECUTIVE ORDER.—  
5 Paragraph (2) of such section, as inserted by the  
6 amendment made by paragraph (1) of this sub-  
7 section, shall be applied with respect to the procla-  
8 mation and Executive Order referred to in para-  
9 graph (1) by substituting the date of the enactment  
10 of this Act for “receiving the request”.

11 **SEC. 16. FISHERIES DATA COLLECTION AND STORAGE**  
12 **MODERNIZATION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall  
14 seek to enter into an agreement with the United States  
15 Digital Service within 90 days after the date of the enact-  
16 ment of this Act, under which the Service shall make rec-  
17 ommendations to modernize and streamline the fishery  
18 data collection, processing, analysis, and storage systems  
19 of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

20 (b) ACCESS TO DATA SYSTEMS.—Under the agree-  
21 ment, the Secretary shall provide the United States Dig-  
22 ital Service with access to all data collection, processing,  
23 analysis, and storage systems of the National Marine  
24 Fisheries Service and any other information necessary to

1 enable the development of recommendations that will en-  
2 sure the optimization and modernization of such systems.

3 (c) IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—The  
4 Secretary shall implement any recommendations made by  
5 the United States Digital Service.

6 **SEC. 17. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 Section 4 (16 U.S.C. 1803) is amended—

8 (1) by striking “this Act” and all that follows  
9 through “(7)” and inserting “this Act”; and

10 (2) by striking “fiscal year 2013” and inserting  
11 “each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021”.

○