

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2344

To make funds available for fisheries resource disaster assistance for the 2015–16 Dungeness crab and rock crab fisheries disaster, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2017

Ms. SPEIER (for herself and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations

A BILL

To make funds available for fisheries resource disaster assistance for the 2015–16 Dungeness crab and rock crab fisheries disaster, 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 “Crab Emergency Dis-
5 aster Assistance Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FISHERY RESOURCE DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR**
7 **THE 2015–16 DUNGENESS CRAB AND ROCK**
8 **CRAB FISHERIES DISASTER.**

9 (a) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—

1 (1) APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.—In addition to
2 any other funds available for such purpose, there is
3 appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce
4 \$117,393,750 to make a lump sum payment to the
5 Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

6 (2) DISTRIBUTION.—The Commission shall dis-
7 tribute such amount among fishing communities, In-
8 dian Tribes, small businesses, including fishermen,
9 fish processors, and related businesses, individuals,
10 and other entities, for assistance for the economic
11 and social effects of the fishery resource disaster for
12 the 2015–16 Dungeness crab and rock crab fisheries
13 as determined by the Secretary of the Commerce on
14 January 18, 2017, and to mitigate the economic
15 losses to such communities, Tribes, businesses, indi-
16 viduals, or other entities caused by fishing closures
17 or other restrictions on the harvesting of Dungeness
18 crab or rock crab.

19 (3) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated by
20 this subsection shall remain available for the period
21 with respect to which the determination referred to
22 in paragraph (2) is made.

23 (4) UNUSED FUNDS.—Any amount appro-
24 priated by this subsection that is not expended or
25 otherwise obligated for the purpose described in

1 paragraph (1) shall be returned to the Treasury of
2 the United States.

3 (b) RESEARCH.—

4 (1) APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.—There is ap-
5 propriated to the Secretary of Commerce—

6 (A) \$1,000,000 for West Coast domoic
7 acid sampling and monitoring; and

8 (B) \$5,000,000 for competitive grants for
9 projects, activities, and research that advance
10 the capacity—

11 (i) to predict the occurrence of harm-
12 ful algal blooms in the offshore waters of
13 California, Washington, and Oregon; and

14 (ii) to evaluate the toxicity of domoic
15 acid bioaccumulation and transmission to
16 humans through the food supply.

17 (2) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—

18 The Secretary shall establish a grant program with
19 amounts appropriated by paragraph (1)(B) not later
20 than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
21 Act.

22 (c) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

23 The Secretary of Commerce may not use more than 4 per-

- 1 cent of the amount appropriated under each of subsections
- 2 (a) and (b) for administrative expenses.

