

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 859

To authorize the Director of the United States Geological Survey to conduct monitoring, assessment, science, and research, in support of the binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5 (legislative day, APRIL 4), 2017

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Ms. STABENOW) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To authorize the Director of the United States Geological Survey to conduct monitoring, assessment, science, and research, in support of the binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin, 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 “Great Lakes Fishery
5 Research Authorization Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
2 the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

3 (2) GREAT LAKES BASIN.—The term “Great
4 Lakes Basin” means the air, land, water, and living
5 organisms in the United States within the drainage
6 basin of the Saint Lawrence River at and upstream
7 from the point at which such river and the Great
8 Lakes become the international boundary between
9 Canada and the United States.

10 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

11 Congress finds the following:

12 (1) The Great Lakes support a diverse eco-
13 system, on which the vibrant and economically valu-
14 able Great Lakes fisheries depend.

15 (2) To continue successful fisheries manage-
16 ment and coordination, as has occurred since signing
17 of the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between
18 the United States and Canada on September 10,
19 1954, management of the ecosystem and its fisheries
20 require sound, reliable science, and the use of mod-
21 ern scientific technologies.

22 (3) Fisheries research is necessary to support
23 multi-jurisdictional fishery management decisions
24 and actions regarding recreational and sport fishing,

1 commercial fisheries, tribal harvest, allocation deci-
 2 sions, and fish stocking activities.

3 (4) President Richard Nixon submitted, and the
 4 Congress approved, Reorganization Plan No. 4 (84
 5 Stat. 2090), conferring science activities and man-
 6 agement of marine fisheries to the National Oceanic
 7 and Atmospheric Administration.

8 (5) Reorganization Plan No. 4 expressly ex-
 9 cluded fishery research activities within the Great
 10 Lakes from the transfer, retaining management and
 11 scientific research duties within the already-estab-
 12 lished jurisdictions under the 1954 Convention on
 13 Great Lakes Fisheries, including those of the Great
 14 Lakes Fishery Commission and the Department of
 15 the Interior.

16 **SEC. 4. GREAT LAKES MONITORING, ASSESSMENT,**
 17 **SCIENCE, AND RESEARCH.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director may conduct moni-
 19 toring, assessment, science, and research, in support of
 20 the binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin.

21 (b) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Director shall,
 22 under subsection (a)—

23 (1) execute a comprehensive, multi-lake, fresh-
 24 water fisheries science program;

1 (2) coordinate with and work cooperatively with
2 regional, State, tribal, and local governments; and

3 (3) consult with other interested entities
4 groups, including academia and relevant Canadian
5 agencies.

6 (c) INCLUDED RESEARCH.—To properly serve the
7 needs of fisheries managers, monitoring, assessment,
8 science, and research under this section may include—

9 (1) deepwater ecosystem sciences;

10 (2) biological and food-web components;

11 (3) fish movement and behavior investigations;

12 (4) fish population structures;

13 (5) fish habitat investigations;

14 (6) invasive species science;

15 (7) use of existing, new, and experimental bio-
16 logical assessment tools, equipment, vessels, other
17 scientific instrumentation and laboratory capabilities
18 necessary to support fishery management decisions;
19 and

20 (8) studies to assess impacts on Great Lakes
21 Fishery resources.

22 (d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act is in-
23 tended or shall be construed to impede, supersede, or alter
24 the authority of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission,
25 States, and Indian tribes under the Convention on Great

1 Lakes Fisheries between the United States of America and
2 Canada on September 10, 1954, and the Great Lakes
3 Fishery Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 931 et seq.).

4 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 For each of fiscal years 2018 through 2027, there
6 is authorized to be appropriated \$17,500,000 to carry out
7 this Act.

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