

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4828

To amend the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act with respect to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 23, 2019

Mr. CUNNINGHAM (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. VEASEY, and Mrs. DINGELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act with respect to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety, 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 “Sport Fish Restoration
5 and Recreational Boating Safety Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Sport Fish Restoration and Boating
2 Trust Fund (Trust Fund) was established in 1950
3 to provide dedicated funding for aquatic conserva-
4 tion and boating safety.

5 (2) The Trust Fund is a user fee-public benefit
6 system funded through motorboat fuel tax receipts,
7 import duties, and excise taxes on small engines,
8 fishing equipment, and electric motors.

9 (3) The Trust Fund provides nearly \$650 mil-
10 lion annually for recreational infrastructure projects,
11 coastal wetlands restoration, and boating safety and
12 conservation programs in all 50 States.

13 (4) Since 2010, more than 28,000 acres of
14 habitats have been restored and improved through-
15 out coastal wetland ecosystems—which not only
16 serve a critical role in conservation but provide a sig-
17 nificant economic impact to coastal communities.

18 (5) The recreational boating and angling com-
19 munity, as well as State agencies, recognize the sig-
20 nificant increase in the use of non-motorized,
21 human-propelled vessels in recent years. Growth of
22 the human-propelled vessel community has required
23 United States Coast Guard and State agencies to
24 use significant resources to address human-propelled
25 infrastructure, boating safety, law enforcement, and

1 search and rescue needs, all of which is paid for by
 2 the Trust Fund.

3 **SEC. 3. DIVISION OF ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Dingell-Johnson
 5 Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777c) is amend-
 6 ed—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2021” and
 8 inserting “2024”;

9 (2) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 12 “2021” and inserting “2024”; and

13 (ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to
 14 read as follows—

15 “(B) AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—The available
 16 amount referred to in subparagraph (A) is—

17 “(i) for fiscal year 2020, \$12,671,235;

18 and

19 “(ii) for fiscal year 2021 and each fis-
 20 cal year thereafter, the sum of—

21 “(I) the available amount for the
 22 preceding fiscal year; and

23 “(II) the amount determined by
 24 multiplying—

1 “(aa) the available amount
2 for the preceding fiscal year; and

3 “(bb) the change, relative to
4 the preceding fiscal year, in the
5 Consumer Price Index for All
6 Urban Consumers published by
7 the Department of Labor.”; and

8 (B) in paragraph (2)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
10 “2016 through 2021” and inserting “2020
11 through 2024”; and

12 (ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to
13 read as follows—

14 “(B) AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—The available
15 amount referred to in subparagraph (A) is—

16 “(i) for fiscal year 2020, \$8,339,466;
17 and

18 “(ii) for fiscal year 2021 and each fis-
19 cal year thereafter, the sum of—

20 “(I) the available amount for the
21 preceding fiscal year; and

22 “(II) the amount determined by
23 multiplying—

24 “(aa) the available amount
25 for the preceding fiscal year; and

1 “(bb) the change, relative to
2 the preceding fiscal year, in the
3 Consumer Price Index for All
4 Urban Consumers published by
5 the Department of Labor.”; and

6 (3) in subsection (e)(2), by striking “\$900,000”
7 and inserting “\$1,300,000”.

8 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 9(a) of the Dingell-
9 Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777h(a))
10 is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “on a full-time
12 basis”;

13 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “on a part-
14 time basis for at least 20 hours each week”;

15 (3) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “full-time
16 equivalent”; and

17 (4) in paragraph (9)(A), by striking “on a full-
18 time basis”.

19 (c) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—Section 14(e) of the Din-
20 gell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C.
21 777m) is amended by adding at the end the following:

22 “(3) A portion, as determined by the Sport
23 Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, of funds
24 disbursed for the purposes described in paragraph
25 (2) but remaining unobligated prior to fiscal year

1 2020 shall be used to study the impact of derelict
2 vessels and identify recyclable solutions for rec-
3 reational vessels.”.

4 **SEC. 4. RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCESS.**

5 The United States Comptroller General shall, not
6 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
7 submit a report to the Sport Fishing and Boating Part-
8 nership Council, the Committees on Natural Resources
9 and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
10 Representatives, and the Committees on Commerce,
11 Science, and Transportation and Environment and Public
12 Works of the Senate. The United States Comptroller Gen-
13 eral shall consult with the Sport Fishing and Boating
14 Partnership Council and the National Boating Safety Ad-
15 visory Council on study design, scope, and priorities. To
16 the extent practicable, given data available, the report
17 shall document—

18 (1) the use of non-motorized vessels in each
19 State and how the increased use of non-motorized
20 vessels is impacting motorized and non-motorized
21 vessel access;

22 (2) user conflicts at waterway access points;
23 and

24 (3) the use of Sport Fish Restoration Program
25 funds to improve non-motorized access at waterway

- 1 entry points and the reasons for providing such ac-
- 2 cess, and Recreational Boating Safety Program
- 3 funds for non-motorized boating safety programs.

