

Union Calendar No. 527

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4679

[Report No. 116-642]

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report examining efforts by the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the National Marine Fisheries Service to prepare and adapt United States fishery management for the impacts of climate change, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 15, 2019

Mr. CUNNINGHAM (for himself, Mr. MAST, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

DECEMBER 14, 2020

Additional sponsors: Mr. GAETZ, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CASE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KIM, Mr. COOPER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GOLDEN, Ms. WILD, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO

DECEMBER 14, 2020

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report examining efforts by the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the National Marine Fisheries Service to prepare and adapt United States fishery management for the impacts of climate change, 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 “Climate-Ready Fish-
5 eries Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) According to the Fourth National Climate
9 Assessment, climate change, which results in ocean
10 warming, acidification, and oxygen loss, is rapidly al-
11 tering the abundance, productivity, and distribution
12 of fish stocks.

13 (2) United States commercial and recreational
14 fisheries generate approximately \$210 billion in sales
15 impacts each year and are a critical economic driver
16 for thousands of coastal communities.

17 (3) Changing water temperatures have already
18 affected many commercially and recreationally tar-
19 geted fish stocks.

20 (4) Changing conditions and effects on fish
21 stocks are impacting subsistence fishing, which is
22 critical to food security and culture for Alaska Na-
23 tive and American Indian tribes, and fishing commu-
24 nities throughout the Nation, according to the
25 Fourth National Climate Assessment.

1 (5) The impacts of climate change on fish are
2 resulting in a cascade of management and sustain-
3 ability challenges, which negatively affect marine
4 ecosystems, fishermen, and fishing communities.

5 (6) A better understanding of current efforts
6 underway by the Regional Fishery Management
7 Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Com-
8 mission, and the National Marine Fisheries Service
9 to address the impact of climate change on fishery
10 management is needed to ensure our fisheries and
11 their marine ecosystems are well prepared for chang-
12 ing ocean conditions.

13 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON EFFORTS TO PREPARE AND ADAPT**
14 **UNITED STATES FISHERY MANAGEMENT FOR**
15 **THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
18 of the United States shall submit a report to Congress
19 examining efforts by the Regional Fishery Management
20 Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commis-
21 sion, and the National Marine Fisheries Service to prepare
22 and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

23 (b) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—The report required
24 under subsection (a) shall include—

1 (1) an examination of current or previous ef-
2 forts, and whether those efforts have resulted in
3 changes to management, by the Regional Fishery
4 Management Councils, the Atlantic States Marine
5 Fisheries Commission, and the National Marine
6 Fisheries Service to prepare and adapt Federal and
7 jointly managed fisheries for the impacts of climate
8 change;

9 (2) an examination of any guidance issued to
10 the Regional Fishery Management Councils by the
11 National Marine Fisheries Service to prepare and
12 adapt Federal fishery management for the impacts
13 of climate change and whether and how that guid-
14 ance has been utilized;

15 (3) identification of and recommendations for
16 how best to address the most significant economic,
17 social, ecological, or other knowledge gaps, as well as
18 key funding gaps, that would increase the ability of
19 the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the At-
20 lantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, or the
21 National Marine Fisheries Service to prepare and
22 adapt fishery management for the impacts of climate
23 change;

24 (4) recommendations for how the Regional
25 Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic States

1 Marine Fisheries Commission, and the National Ma-
2 rine Fisheries Service can better adapt fishery man-
3 agement and prepare associated fishing industries
4 and dependent communities for the impacts of cli-
5 mate change; and

6 (5) recommendations for how to enhance the
7 capacity of the National Marine Fisheries Service to
8 monitor climate-related changes to fisheries and ma-
9 rine ecosystems, to understand the mechanisms of
10 change, to evaluate risks and priorities, to provide
11 forecasts and projections of future conditions, to
12 communicate scientific advice, and to better manage
13 fisheries under changing conditions due to climate
14 change.

Union Calendar No. 527

116TH CONGRESS
2^D Session

H. R. 4679

[Report No. 116-642]

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report examining efforts by the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the National Marine Fisheries Service to prepare and adapt United States fishery management for the impacts of climate change, and for other purposes.

DECEMBER 14, 2020

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed