

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 446

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) 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.

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”.

6 **SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES MONITORING, ASSESSMENT, SCI-**
7 **ENCE, AND RESEARCH.**

8 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

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 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

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

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

21 (3) Fisheries research is necessary to support
22 multi-jurisdictional fishery management decisions
23 and actions regarding recreational and sport fishing,
24 commercial fisheries, tribal harvest, allocation deci-
25 sions, and fish stocking activities.

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

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

14 (c) MONITORING, ASSESSMENT, SCIENCE, AND RE-
15 SEARCH.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may conduct
17 monitoring, assessment, science, and research, in
18 support of the binational fisheries within the Great
19 Lakes Basin.

20 (2) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Director
21 shall, under paragraph (1)—

22 (A) execute a comprehensive, multi-lake,
23 freshwater fisheries science program;

1 (B) coordinate with and work cooperatively
 2 with regional, State, Tribal, and local govern-
 3 ments; and

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

7 (3) INCLUDED RESEARCH.—To properly serve
 8 the needs of fisheries managers, monitoring, assess-
 9 ment, science, and research under this section may
 10 include—

11 (A) deepwater ecosystem sciences;

12 (B) biological and food-web components;

13 (C) fish movement and behavior investiga-
 14 tions;

15 (D) fish population structures;

16 (E) fish habitat investigations;

17 (F) invasive species science;

18 (G) use of existing, new, and experimental
 19 biological assessment tools, equipment, vessels,
 20 other scientific instrumentation and laboratory
 21 capabilities necessary to support fishery man-
 22 agement decisions; and

23 (H) studies to assess impacts on Great
 24 Lakes Fishery resources.

1 (4) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section
2 is intended or shall be construed to impede, super-
3 sede, or alter the authority of the Great Lakes Fish-
4 ery Commission, States, and Indian tribes under the
5 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between the
6 United States of America and Canada on September
7 10, 1954, and the Great Lakes Fishery Act of 1956
8 (16 U.S.C. 931 et seq.).

9 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For
10 each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, there is author-
11 ized to be appropriated \$17,500,000 to carry out this sec-
12 tion.

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