

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1323

To preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8, 2017

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen, 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 “Young Fishermen’s
5 Development Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) SEA GRANT INSTITUTION.—The term “Sea
2 Grant Institution” means a sea grant college or sea
3 grant institute, as those terms are defined in section
4 203 of the National Sea Grant College Program Act
5 (33 U.S.C. 1122).

6 (2) YOUNG FISHERMAN.—The term “young
7 fisherman” means an individual who—

8 (A)(i) desires to participate in the commer-
9 cial fisheries of the United States, including the
10 Great Lakes fisheries;

11 (ii) has worked as a captain, crew member,
12 deckhand, or other at-sea position on a com-
13 mercial fishing vessel for not more than 10
14 years of cumulative service; or

15 (iii) is a beginning commercial fisherman;

16 and

17 (B) is less than 35 years of age.

18 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, act-
20 ing through the National Sea Grant Office, shall establish
21 a program to provide training, education, outreach, and
22 technical assistance initiatives for young fishermen.

23 (b) DESIGNATION.—The program established under
24 subsection (a) shall be known as the “Young Fishermen’s
25 Development Grant Program”.

1 **SEC. 4. GRANTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Young Fisher-
3 men’s Development Grant Program (referred to in this
4 section as the “Program”), the Secretary shall make com-
5 petitive grants to support new and established local and
6 regional training, education, outreach, and technical as-
7 sistance initiatives for young fishermen, including pro-
8 grams, workshops, and services relating to—

9 (1) seamanship, navigation, electronics, and
10 safety;

11 (2) vessel and engine care, maintenance, and
12 repair;

13 (3) innovative conservation fishing gear engi-
14 neering and technology;

15 (4) sustainable fishing practices;

16 (5) entrepreneurship and good business prac-
17 tices;

18 (6) direct marketing, supply chain, and
19 traceability;

20 (7) financial and risk management, including
21 vessel, permit, and quota purchasing;

22 (8) State and Federal legal requirements for
23 specific fisheries, including reporting, monitoring, li-
24 censes, and regulations;

25 (9) State and Federal fisheries policy and man-
26 agement;

1 (10) mentoring, apprenticeships, or internships;
2 and

3 (11) any other activities, opportunities, or pro-
4 grams as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

5 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

6 (1) APPLICANTS.—To be eligible to receive a
7 grant under the Program, the recipient must be a
8 collaborative State, Tribal, local, or regionally based
9 network or partnership of public or private entities,
10 which may include—

11 (A) a Sea Grant Institution;

12 (B) a Federal, State, or tribal agency;

13 (C) a community-based or nongovern-
14 mental organization;

15 (D) fishermen’s cooperatives or associa-
16 tions, including permit banks and trusts;

17 (E) Alaska Native corporations;

18 (F) a college or university (including an in-
19 stitution awarding an associate’s degree), or a
20 foundation maintained by a college or univer-
21 sity; or

22 (G) any other appropriate entity as deter-
23 mined by the Secretary.

24 (2) PARTICIPANTS.—All young fishermen seek-
25 ing to participate in the commercial fisheries of the

1 United States and the Great Lakes are eligible to
2 participate in the activities funded through grants
3 provided for in this section, except that participants
4 in such activities shall be selected by each grant re-
5 cipient.

6 (c) MAXIMUM TERM AND AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section
8 shall—

9 (A) have a term of no more than 3 fiscal
10 years; and

11 (B) be in an amount that is not more than
12 \$200,000 for each fiscal year.

13 (2) CONSECUTIVE GRANTS.—An eligible recipi-
14 ent may receive consecutive grants under this sec-
15 tion.

16 (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible to re-
17 ceive a grant under this section, a recipient shall provide
18 a match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions in
19 the amount equal to or greater than 25 percent of the
20 funds provided by the grant.

21 (e) REGIONAL BALANCE.—In making grants under
22 this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent
23 practicable, ensure geographic diversity.

24 (f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
25 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to partnerships and

1 collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental
2 fishing community-based organizations and school-based
3 fisheries educational organizations with expertise in fish-
4 eries and sustainable fishing training and outreach.

5 (g) COOPERATION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In
6 carrying out this section and especially in developing cri-
7 teria for evaluating grant applications, the Secretary shall
8 cooperate, to the maximum extent practicable, with—

9 (1) Sea Grant Institutions and extension agents
10 of such institutions;

11 (2) community-based and nongovernmental
12 fishing organizations;

13 (3) Federal and State agencies, including Re-
14 gional Fishery Management Councils established
15 under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
16 and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.);

17 (4) colleges and universities with fisheries ex-
18 pertise and programs; and

19 (5) other appropriate partners as determined by
20 the Secretary.

21 (h) PROHIBITION.—A grant under this section may
22 not be used to purchase any fishing license, permit, quota,
23 or other harvesting right.

1 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

2 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amount made available to
3 the Secretary of Commerce under section 311(e) of the
4 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-
5 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1861(e)) for each of fiscal years
6 2018 through 2022, the Secretary shall use \$2,000,000
7 to carry out section 4 of this Act.

8 (b) **PROPORTIONAL ALLOCATION.**—The amount obli-
9 gated under this section each fiscal year for activities in
10 each fishery management region shall be in the same pro-
11 portion as the portion of the total amount obligated under
12 this section for that fiscal year that was collected in that
13 region.

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