

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2079

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. MOULTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

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

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. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) the average age of commercial fishermen
2 continues to increase due to fewer new entrants re-
3 placing retiring fishermen;

4 (2) there are fewer young or beginning fisher-
5 men entering the commercial fisheries for many rea-
6 sons, including the lack of training, fewer entry level
7 opportunities, lack of capital, and other barriers to
8 entry;

9 (3) without well-trained young or beginning
10 fishermen to replace those retiring, fishing busi-
11 nesses and vessels will be lost and fishing commu-
12 nities will suffer;

13 (4) for food security and economic reasons, it is
14 in the United States national interest to sustainably
15 harvest United States fishery resources;

16 (5) United States farmers and ranchers faced
17 similar difficulties and Congress responded by enact-
18 ing the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Develop-
19 ment Program administered by the Department of
20 Agriculture;

21 (6) the Young Fishermen's Development Grant
22 Program established by this Act is modeled after the
23 successful Department of Agriculture program; and

24 (7) the training, education, and outreach pro-
25 vided for in the Young Fishermen's Development

1 Grant Program established by this Act will ensure
2 there is a next generation of commercial fishermen
3 and businesses to harvest the United States rich
4 fishery resources and support our coastal commu-
5 nities.

6 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

7 (1) to establish a national grant program to
8 support the training and education of the United
9 States next generation of commercial fishermen; and

10 (2) to engage partnerships and collaborations
11 led by or including nongovernmental, community-
12 based fishing organizations, and school-based fish-
13 eries, including Sea Grant Institutions, or marine
14 educational organizations with expertise in new fish-
15 eries training and outreach, to provide the education
16 and training.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act—

19 (1) the term “young fishermen” means an indi-
20 vidual who—

21 (A)(i) desires to participate in the commer-
22 cial fisheries of the United States, including the
23 Great Lakes fisheries;

24 (ii) has worked as a captain, crew member,
25 deckhand, or other at-sea position on a com-

1 merchial fishing vessel for not more than 10
2 years of cumulative service;

3 (iii) is a beginning commercial fisherman;

4 or

5 (iv) meets such other criteria as the Sec-
6 retary of Commerce may establish; and

7 (B) is less than 35 years of age; and

8 (2) the term “Sea Grant Institution” means a
9 sea grant college or sea grant institute, as those
10 terms are defined in section 203 of the National Sea
11 Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1122).

12 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

13 The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Na-
14 tional Sea Grant Office, shall establish a Young Fisher-
15 men’s Development Grant Program to provide training,
16 education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives
17 for young fishermen.

18 **SEC. 5. GRANTS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this Act, the Sec-
20 retary shall make competitive grants to support new and
21 established local and regional training, education, out-
22 reach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fisher-
23 men, including programs, workshops, and services relating
24 to—

1 (1) seamanship, navigation, electronics, and
2 safety;

3 (2) vessel and engine care, maintenance, and
4 repair;

5 (3) innovative conservation fishing gear engi-
6 neering and technology;

7 (4) sustainable fishing practices;

8 (5) entrepreneurship and good business prac-
9 tices;

10 (6) direct marketing, supply chain, and
11 traceability;

12 (7) financial and risk management, including
13 vessel, permit, and quota purchasing;

14 (8) State and Federal legal requirements for
15 specific fisheries, including reporting, monitoring, li-
16 censes, and regulations;

17 (9) State and Federal fisheries policy and man-
18 agement;

19 (10) mentoring, apprenticeships, or internships;
20 and

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

23 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

24 (1) APPLICANTS.—To be eligible to receive a
25 grant under this Act, the recipient must be a col-

1 laborative State, Tribal, local, or regionally based
2 network or partnership of public or private entities,
3 which may include—

4 (A) a Sea Grant Institution;

5 (B) a Federal, State, or Tribal agency;

6 (C) a community-based or nongovernment-
7 al organization;

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

10 (E) Alaska Native corporations;

11 (F) a college or university (including an in-
12 stitution awarding an associate’s degree), or a
13 foundation maintained by a college or univer-
14 sity; or

15 (G) any other appropriate entity as deter-
16 mined by the Secretary.

17 (2) PARTICIPANTS.—All young fishermen seek-
18 ing to participate in the commercial fisheries of the
19 United States and the Great Lakes are eligible to
20 participate in the activities funded through grants
21 provided for in this section, except that participants
22 in such activities shall be selected by each grant re-
23 cipient.

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

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

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

5 (B) be in an amount that is not more than
6 \$200,000 for each fiscal year.

7 (2) CONSECUTIVE GRANTS.—An eligible recipi-
8 ent may receive consecutive grants under this sec-
9 tion.

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

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

18 (f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
19 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to partnerships and
20 collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental
21 fishing community-based organizations and school-based
22 fisheries educational organizations with expertise in fish-
23 eries and sustainable fishing training and outreach.

24 (g) COOPERATION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In
25 carrying out this section and especially in developing cri-

1 teria for evaluating grant applications, the Secretary shall
2 cooperate, to the maximum extent practicable, with—

3 (1) Sea Grant Institutions and extension agents
4 of such institutions;

5 (2) community-based and nongovernmental
6 fishing organizations;

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

11 (4) colleges and universities with fisheries ex-
12 pertise and programs; and

13 (5) other appropriate partners as determined by
14 the Secretary.

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

18 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made available to
20 the Secretary of Commerce under section 311(e) of the
21 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-
22 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1861(e)) for each of fiscal years
23 2018 through 2022, the Secretary shall use \$2,000,000
24 to carry out section 5 of this Act.

1 (b) PROPORTIONAL ALLOCATION.—The amount obli-
2 gated under this section each fiscal year for activities in
3 each fishery management region shall be in the same pro-
4 portion as the portion of the total amount obligated under
5 this section for that fiscal year that was collected in that
6 region.

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