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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Young Fishermen’s Development Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
(1) the average age of commercial fishermen continues to increase due to fewer new entrants replacing retiring fishermen;

(2) there are fewer young or beginning fishermen entering the commercial fisheries for many reasons, including the lack of training, fewer entry level opportunities, lack of capital, and other barriers to entry;

(3) without well-trained young or beginning fishermen to replace those retiring, fishing businesses and vessels will be lost and fishing communities will suffer;

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

(5) United States farmers and ranchers faced similar difficulties and Congress responded by enacting the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program administered by the Department of Agriculture;

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

(7) the training, education, and outreach provided for in the Young Fishermen’s Development
Grant Program established by this Act will ensure there is a next generation of commercial fishermen and businesses to harvest the United States rich fishery resources and support our coastal communities.

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

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

(2) to engage partnerships and collaborations led by or including nongovernmental, community-based fishing organizations, and school-based fisheries, including Sea Grant Institutions, or marine educational organizations with expertise in new fisheries training and outreach, to provide the education and training.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “young fishermen” means an individual who—

(A)(i) desires to participate in the commercial fisheries of the United States, including the Great Lakes fisheries;

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

(iii) is a beginning commercial fisherman;

or

(iv) meets such other criteria as the Secretary of Commerce may establish; and

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

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

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the National Sea Grant Office, shall establish a Young Fishermen’s Development Grant Program to provide training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fishermen.

SEC. 5. GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary shall make competitive grants to support new and established local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fishermen, including programs, workshops, and services relating to—
(1) seamanship, navigation, electronics, and safety;
(2) vessel and engine care, maintenance, and repair;
(3) innovative conservation fishing gear engineering and technology;
(4) sustainable fishing practices;
(5) entrepreneurship and good business practices;
(6) direct marketing, supply chain, and traceability;
(7) financial and risk management, including vessel, permit, and quota purchasing;
(8) State and Federal legal requirements for specific fisheries, including reporting, monitoring, licenses, and regulations;
(9) State and Federal fisheries policy and management;
(10) mentoring, apprenticeships, or internships; and
(11) any other activities, opportunities, or programs as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) APPLICANTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this Act, the recipient must be a col-
laborative State, Tribal, local, or regionally based network or partnership of public or private entities, which may include—

(A) a Sea Grant Institution;

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

(C) a community-based or nongovernmental organization;

(D) fishermen’s cooperatives or associations, including permit banks and trusts;

(E) Alaska Native corporations;

(F) a college or university (including an institution awarding an associate’s degree), or a foundation maintained by a college or university; or

(G) any other appropriate entity as determined by the Secretary.

(2) PARTICIPANTS.—All young fishermen seeking to participate in the commercial fisheries of the United States and the Great Lakes are eligible to participate in the activities funded through grants provided for in this section, except that participants in such activities shall be selected by each grant recipient.

(c) MAXIMUM TERM AND AMOUNT OF GRANT.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section shall—
(A) have a term of no more than 3 fiscal years; and
(B) be in an amount that is not more than $200,000 for each fiscal year.

(2) CONSECUTIVE GRANTS.—An eligible recipient may receive consecutive grants under this section.

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

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

(f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to partnerships and collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental fishing community-based organizations and school-based fisheries educational organizations with expertise in fisheries and sustainable fishing training and outreach.

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

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

(2) community-based and nongovernmental fishing organizations;

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

(4) colleges and universities with fisheries expertise and programs; and

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

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

SEC. 6. FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made available to the Secretary of Commerce under section 311(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861(e)) for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022, the Secretary shall use $2,000,000 to carry out section 5 of this Act.
(b) **PROPORTIONAL ALLOCATION**.—The amount obligated under this section each fiscal year for activities in each fishery management region shall be in the same proportion as the portion of the total amount obligated under this section for that fiscal year that was collected in that region.