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) **SEA GRANT INSTITUTION.**—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).

(2) **YOUNG FISHERMAN.**—The term “young fisherman” 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 commercial fishing vessel for not more than 10 years of cumulative service; or

(iii) is a beginning commercial fisherman;

and

(B) is less than 35 years of age.

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

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the National Sea Grant Office, shall establish a program to provide training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fishermen.

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

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SEC. 4. GRANTS.

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

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

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

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

(4) sustainable fishing practices;

(5) entrepreneurship and good business prac-
tices;

(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, li-
censes, and regulations;

(9) State and Federal fisheries policy and man-
agement;
(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 the Program, the recipient must be a collaborative 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 criteria 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. 5. 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 4 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.