

Union Calendar No. 219

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1023

[Report No. 116-274]

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, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2019

Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. UPTON, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

NOVEMBER 8, 2019

Additional sponsors: Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. KIND, and Ms. KAPTUR

NOVEMBER 8, 2019

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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, 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 “Great Lakes Fishery
5 Research Authorization Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
9 the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

10 (2) GREAT LAKES BASIN.—The term “Great
11 Lakes Basin” means the air, land, water, and living
12 organisms in the United States within the drainage
13 basin of the Saint Lawrence River at and upstream
14 from the point at which such river and the Great
15 Lakes become the international boundary between
16 Canada and the United States.

17 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

18 Congress finds the following:

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

22 (2) To continue successful fisheries manage-
23 ment and coordination, as has occurred since signing
24 of the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between
25 the United States and Canada on September 10,

1 1954, management of the ecosystem and its fisheries
2 require sound, reliable science, and the use of mod-
3 ern scientific technologies.

4 (3) Fisheries research is necessary to support
5 multi-jurisdictional fishery management decisions
6 and actions regarding recreational and sport fishing,
7 commercial fisheries, tribal harvest, allocation deci-
8 sions, and fish stocking activities.

9 (4) President Richard Nixon submitted, and the
10 Congress approved, Reorganization Plan No. 4 (84
11 Stat. 2090), conferring science activities and man-
12 agement of marine fisheries to the National Oceanic
13 and Atmospheric Administration.

14 (5) Reorganization Plan No. 4 expressly ex-
15 cluded fishery research activities within the Great
16 Lakes from the transfer, retaining management and
17 scientific research duties within the already estab-
18 lished jurisdictions under the 1954 Convention on
19 Great Lakes Fisheries, including those of the Great
20 Lakes Fishery Commission and the Department of
21 the Interior.

1 **SEC. 4. GREAT LAKES MONITORING, ASSESSMENT, SCI-**
2 **ENCE, AND RESEARCH.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director may conduct moni-
4 toring, assessment, science, and research, in support of
5 the binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin.

6 (b) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Director shall,
7 under subsection (a)—

8 (1) execute a comprehensive, multi-lake, fresh-
9 water fisheries science program;

10 (2) coordinate with and work cooperatively with
11 regional, State, tribal, and local governments; and

12 (3) consult with other interested entities
13 groups, including academia and relevant Canadian
14 agencies.

15 (c) INCLUDED RESEARCH.—To properly serve the
16 needs of fisheries managers, monitoring, assessment,
17 science, and research under this section may include—

18 (1) deepwater ecosystem sciences;

19 (2) biological and food-web components;

20 (3) fish movement and behavior investigations;

21 (4) fish population structures;

22 (5) fish habitat investigations;

23 (6) invasive species science;

24 (7) use of existing, new, and experimental bio-
25 logical assessment tools, equipment, vessels, other
26 scientific instrumentation and laboratory capabilities

1 necessary to support fishery management decisions;
2 and

3 (8) studies to assess impacts on Great Lakes
4 fishery resources.

5 (d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act is in-
6 tended or shall be construed to impede, supersede, or alter
7 the authority of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission,
8 States, and Indian tribes under the Convention on Great
9 Lakes Fisheries between the United States of America and
10 Canada on September 10, 1954, and the Great Lakes
11 Fishery Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 931 et seq.).

12 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 For each of fiscal years 2020 through 2029, there
14 is authorized to be appropriated \$17,500,000 to carry out
15 this Act.

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