

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6127

---

## AN ACT

To provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Modernizing Access  
3 to Our Public Waters Act” or the “MAPWaters Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **FEDERAL FISHING RESTRICTION.**—The  
7 term “Federal fishing restriction” means a defined  
8 area in which all or certain fishing activities are  
9 temporarily or permanently prohibited or restricted  
10 by a Federal land or water management agency.

11 (2) **FEDERAL LAND OR WATER MANAGEMENT**  
12 **AGENCY.**—The term “Federal land or water man-  
13 agement agency” means—

14 (A) the Bureau of Reclamation;

15 (B) the National Park Service;

16 (C) the Bureau of Land Management;

17 (D) the United States Fish and Wildlife  
18 Service; and

19 (E) the Forest Service.

20 (3) **FEDERAL WATERWAY.**—The term “Federal  
21 waterway” means any portion of a body of water  
22 managed partially or wholly by 1 or more of the rel-  
23 evant Secretaries.

24 (4) **FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTION.**—The  
25 term “Federal waterway restriction” means a re-  
26 striction on the access or use of a Federal waterway

1 applied under applicable law by 1 or more of the  
2 Secretaries.

3 (5) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
4 means—

5 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting  
6 through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

7 (B) the Secretary of the Interior.

8 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY DATA STANDARDIZATION.**

9 Not later than 30 months after the date of enactment  
10 of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination with the Fed-  
11 eral Geographic Data Committee established by section  
12 753(a) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (43  
13 U.S.C. 2802(a)), shall jointly develop and adopt inter-  
14 agency standards to ensure compatibility and interoper-  
15 ability among applicable Federal databases with respect  
16 to the collection and dissemination of geospatial data re-  
17 lating to public outdoor recreational access of Federal wa-  
18 terways and Federal fishing restrictions.

19 **SEC. 4. DATA CONSOLIDATION AND PUBLICATION.**

20 (a) FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTIONS.—Not later  
21 than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each  
22 of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable,  
23 shall digitize and make publicly available online, as appli-  
24 cable, geographic information system data that includes,  
25 with respect to Federal waterway restrictions—

1           (1) status information with respect to the con-  
2           ditions under which Federal waterways are open or  
3           closed to entry or watercraft, including watercraft  
4           inspection, decontamination requirements, low-ele-  
5           vation aircraft, or diving;

6           (2) the dates on which Federal waterways are  
7           seasonally closed to entry or watercraft;

8           (3) the areas of Federal waterways with restric-  
9           tions on motorized propulsion, horsepower, or fuel  
10          type;

11          (4) the areas of Federal waterways with an-  
12          choring restrictions, no wake zones, exclusion zones,  
13          danger areas, or vessel speed restrictions;

14          (5) Federal waterway restrictions on the direc-  
15          tion of travel, including upstream or downstream  
16          travel; and

17          (6) the types of watercraft that are restricted  
18          on each area of a Federal waterway, including the  
19          permissibility of—

20                 (A) canoes;

21                 (B) rafts and driftboats;

22                 (C) motorboats;

23                 (D) personal watercraft;

24                 (E) airboats;

25                 (F) amphibious aircraft;

1 (G) hovercraft;

2 (H) oversnow vehicles and other motorized  
3 vehicles on frozen bodies of water; and

4 (I) oceangoing ships; and

5 (7) citations documenting the source of the re-  
6 strictions.

7 (b) FEDERAL WATERWAY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION  
8 INFORMATION.—Not later than 4 years after the date of  
9 enactment of this Act, each of the Secretaries, to the max-  
10 imum extent practicable, shall digitize and make publicly  
11 available online, as applicable, geographic information sys-  
12 tem data that includes, with respect to Federal waterway  
13 access and navigation information—

14 (1)(A) the location of boat ramps, portages, and  
15 fishing access sites under the authority of the Fed-  
16 eral land or water management agency; and

17 (B) the identification of the dates on which the  
18 facilities and sites identified under subparagraph (A)  
19 are open or closed, as applicable; and

20 (2) bathymetric information and depth charts,  
21 as feasible.

22 (c) FEDERAL FISHING RESTRICTIONS.—Not later  
23 than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each  
24 of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable,  
25 shall digitize and make publicly available online geo-

1 graphic information system data that describes, with re-  
2 spect to Federal fishing restrictions—

3 (1) the location and geographic boundaries of  
4 Federal fishing restrictions on recreational and com-  
5 mercial fishing, including—

6 (A) full or partial closures;

7 (B) no-take zones; and

8 (C) Federal fishing restrictions within or  
9 surrounding marine protected areas;

10 (2) Federal fishing restrictions enacted pursu-  
11 ant to section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy  
12 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732(b));  
13 and

14 (3) Federal requirements with respect to catch  
15 and release.

16 (d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretaries shall de-  
17 velop a process to allow members of the public to submit  
18 questions or comments regarding the information de-  
19 scribed in subsections (a) and (b).

20 (e) UPDATES.—The Secretaries, to the maximum ex-  
21 tent practicable, shall update—

22 (1) the data described in subsections (a) and

23 (b) not less frequently than 2 times per year; and

24 (2) the data described in subsection (c) in real  
25 time as changes go into effect.

1 (f) EXCLUSION.—This section shall not apply to irri-  
2 gation canals and flowage easements.

3 (g) DISCLOSURE.—Any geographic information sys-  
4 tem data made publicly available under this section shall  
5 not disclose information regarding the nature, location,  
6 character, or ownership of historic, paleontological, or ar-  
7 chaeological resources, consistent with applicable law.

8 **SEC. 5. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.**

9 (a) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THIRD-PARTY PRO-  
10 VIDERS.—For purposes of carrying out this Act, the Sec-  
11 retaries may—

12 (1) coordinate and partner with non-Federal  
13 agencies and private sector and nonprofit partners,  
14 including—

15 (A) State, territorial, and District of Co-  
16 lumbia natural resource agencies;

17 (B) Tribal natural resource agencies;

18 (C) technology companies;

19 (D) geospatial data companies; and

20 (E) experts in data science, analytics, and  
21 operations research; and

22 (2) enter into an agreement with a third party  
23 to carry out any provision of this Act.

24 (b) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—The  
25 Secretaries may work with the Director of the United

1 States Geological Survey to collect, aggregate, digitize,  
2 standardize, and publish data on behalf of the Secretaries  
3 to meet the requirements of this Act.

4 (c) REQUIREMENT.—With respect to data developed  
5 and distributed under this Act, the Secretaries shall in-  
6 clude a notice that any geospatial data are subject to ap-  
7 plicable Federal, State, and Tribal regulations.

8 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

9 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
10 of this Act and annually thereafter through March 30,  
11 2033, the Secretaries shall submit a report that describes  
12 the progress made by the Secretaries with respect to meet-  
13 ing the requirements of this Act to—

14 (1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-  
15 sources of the Senate;

16 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
17 and Forestry of the Senate;

18 (3) the Committee on Natural Resources of the  
19 House of Representatives;

20 (4) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of  
21 the House of Representatives; and

22 (5) the Committee on Agriculture of the House  
23 of Representatives.

24 **SEC. 7. EFFECT.**

25 Nothing in this Act—



1           (1) modifies or alters the definition of the term  
2           “navigable waters” under Federal law;

3           (2) affects the jurisdiction or authority of State  
4           or Federal agencies to regulate navigable waters;

5           (3) modifies or alters the authority or jurisdic-  
6           tion of Federal or State agencies to manage fish-  
7           eries; or

8           (4) authorizes or is intended to result in the  
9           closing of or restriction of access to waters open to  
10          hunting, fishing, or other forms of outdoor recre-  
11          ation as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

        Passed the House of Representatives December 17,  
2024.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

---

---

**H. R. 6127**

**AN ACT**

To provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes.