

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6393

To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to allow certain activities to be conducted with respect to sturgeon held in captivity or in a controlled environment in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Mr. WALTZ (for himself, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Mr. DUNN of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to allow certain activities to be conducted with respect to sturgeon held in captivity or in a controlled environment in the United States, 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 “Sturgeon Conservation
5 and Sustainability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STURGEON HELD IN CAPTIVITY OR CONTROLLED**
2 **ENVIRONMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES.**

3 Section 9(b) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973
4 (16 U.S.C. 1538(b)) is amended by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(3) STURGEON.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(1) and
8 section 7(a)(2) shall not apply to—

9 “(i) a sturgeon farmed in the United
10 States that is legally held in captivity or in
11 a controlled environment as of the date of
12 enactment of this paragraph, until such
13 time as the sturgeon is intentionally re-
14 turned to a wild state; or

15 “(ii) progeny of a sturgeon described
16 in clause (i), until such time as the prog-
17 eny is intentionally returned to a wild
18 state.

19 “(B) DEMONSTRATION; REQUIREMENTS.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Any person hold-
21 ing any sturgeon or progeny described in
22 subparagraph (A) shall—

23 “(I) be able to demonstrate that
24 the sturgeon or progeny qualifies as a
25 sturgeon or progeny, as applicable, de-
26 scribed in that subparagraph; and

1 “(II) maintain and submit to the
2 Secretary, on request of the Secretary,
3 such inventories, documentation, and
4 records as the Secretary may, by reg-
5 ulation, require as being reasonably
6 appropriate to carry out the purposes
7 of this paragraph.

8 “(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Requirements
9 described in clause (i)(II) shall not unnec-
10 essarily duplicate the requirements of other
11 rules and regulations promulgated by the
12 Secretary under this Act.”.

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