

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# **H. R. 273**

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## **AN ACT**

To provide for the eradication and control of nutria  
in Maryland and Louisiana.



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Maryland and Louisiana.

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 “Nutria Eradication  
3 and Control Act of 2003”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Wetlands and tidal marshes of the Chesapeake Bay and in Louisiana provide significant cultural, economic, and ecological benefits to the Nation.

10 (2) The South American nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) is directly contributing to substantial marsh loss in Maryland and Louisiana on Federal, State, and private land.

14 (3) Traditional harvest methods to control or eradicate nutria have failed in Maryland and have had limited success in the eradication of nutria in Louisiana. Consequently, marsh loss is accelerating.

18 (4) The nutria eradication and control pilot program authorized by Public Law 105–322 is to develop new and effective methods for eradication of nutria.

22 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the State of Maryland and the State of Louisiana for a program to implement measures to eradicate or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.

1 **SEC. 3. NUTRIA ERADICATION PROGRAM.**

2 (a) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
3 rior (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”), subject  
4 to the availability of appropriations, may provide financial  
5 assistance to the State of Maryland and the State of Lou-  
6 isiana for a program to implement measures to eradicate  
7 or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nu-  
8 tria.

9 (b) GOALS.—The goals of the program shall be to—

10 (1) eradicate nutria in Maryland;

11 (2) eradicate or control nutria in Louisiana and  
12 other States; and

13 (3) restore marshland damaged by nutria.

14 (c) ACTIVITIES.—In the State of Maryland, the Sec-  
15 retary shall require that the program consist of manage-  
16 ment, research, and public education activities carried out  
17 in accordance with the document published by the United  
18 States Fish and Wildlife Service entitled “Eradication  
19 Strategies for Nutria in the Chesapeake and Delaware  
20 Bay Watersheds”, dated March 2002.

21 (d) COST SHARING.—

22 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of  
23 the costs of the program may not exceed 75 percent  
24 of the total costs of the program.

25 (2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Fed-  
26 eral share of the costs of the program may be pro-

1 vided in the form of in-kind contributions of mate-  
2 rials or services.

3 (e) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—  
4 Not more than 5 percent of financial assistance provided  
5 by the Secretary under this section may be used for ad-  
6 ministrative expenses.

7 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For fi-  
8 nancial assistance under this section, there is authorized  
9 to be appropriated to the Secretary \$4,000,000 for the  
10 State of Maryland program and \$2,000,000 for the State  
11 of Louisiana program for each of fiscal years 2004, 2005,  
12 2006, 2007, and 2008.

13 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

14 No later than 6 months after the date of the enact-  
15 ment of this Act, the Secretary and the National Invasive  
16 Species Council shall—

17 (1) give consideration to the 2002 report for  
18 the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
19 titled “Nutria in Louisiana”, and the 2002 docu-  
20 ment entitled “Eradication Strategies for Nutria in  
21 the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay Watersheds”;  
22 and

23 (2) develop, in cooperation with the State of  
24 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and  
25 the State of Maryland Department of Natural Re-

1 sources, a long-term nutria control or eradication  
2 program, as appropriate, with the objective to sig-  
3 nificantly reduce and restore the damage nutria  
4 cause to coastal wetlands in the States of Louisiana  
5 and Maryland.

Passed the House of Representatives April 8, 2003.

Attest:

*Clerk.*