

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 273

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2003

Mr. GILCHREST (for himself and Mr. TAUZIN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To provide for the eradication and control of nutria in
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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Nutria Eradication
5 and Control Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

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

8 (1) Wetlands and tidal marshes of the Chesapeake Bay and in Louisiana provide significant cul-

9

1 tural, economic, and ecological benefits to the Na-
2 tion.

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

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

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

15 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
16 ize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assist-
17 ance to the State of Maryland and the State of Louisiana
18 for a program to implement measures to eradicate or con-
19 trol nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.

20 **SEC. 3. NUTRIA ERADICATION PROGRAM.**

21 (a) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Inte-
22 rior (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”), subject
23 to the availability of appropriations, may provide financial
24 assistance to the State of Maryland and the State of Lou-
25 isiana for a program to implement measures to eradicate

1 or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nu-
2 tria.

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

4 (1) eradicate nutria in Maryland;

5 (2) eradicate or control nutria in Louisiana and
6 other States; and

7 (3) restore marshland damaged by nutria.

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

15 (d) COST SHARING.—

16 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
17 the costs of the program may not exceed 75 percent
18 of the total costs of the program.

19 (2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Fed-
20 eral share of the costs of the program may be pro-
21 vided in the form of in-kind contributions of mate-
22 rials or services.

23 (e) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—
24 Not more than 5 percent of financial assistance provided

1 by the Secretary under this section may be used for ad-
2 ministrative expenses.

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

9 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

10 No later than 6 months after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Secretary and the National Invasive
12 Species Council shall—

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

19 (2) develop, in cooperation with the State of
20 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and
21 the State of Maryland Department of Natural Re-
22 sources, a long-term nutria control or eradication
23 program, as appropriate, with the objective to sig-
24 nificantly reduce and restore the damage nutria

- 1 cause to coastal wetlands in the States of Louisiana
- 2 and Maryland.

