

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1584

To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to extend the authorized time period for rebuilding of certain overfished fisheries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 2009

Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. LoBiondo, Mr. Frank of Massachusetts, Mr. Jones, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Adler of New Jersey, Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida, and Mr. McIntyre) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to extend the authorized time period for rebuilding of certain overfished fisheries, 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 “Flexibility in Rebuild-
5 ing American Fisheries Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TIME PERIOD FOR REBUILDING**
2 **CERTAIN OVERFISHED FISHERIES.**

3 Section 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
4 Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
5 1854(e)(4)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (4)(A)—

7 (A) in clause (i) by striking “possible” and
8 inserting “practicable”; and

9 (B) by amending clause (ii) to read as fol-
10 lows:

11 “(ii) not exceed 10 years, except in
12 cases where—

13 “(I) the biology of the stock of
14 fish, other environmental conditions,
15 or management measures under an
16 international agreement in which the
17 United States participates dictate oth-
18 erwise;

19 “(II) the Secretary determines
20 that such 10-year period should be ex-
21 tended because the cause of the fish-
22 ery decline is outside the jurisdiction
23 of the Council or the rebuilding pro-
24 gram cannot be effective only by lim-
25 iting fishing activities;

1 “(III) the Secretary determines
2 that such 10-year period should be ex-
3 tended to provide for the sustained
4 participation of fishing communities
5 or to minimize the economic impacts
6 on such communities, provided that
7 there is evidence that the stock of fish
8 is on a positive rebuilding trend;

9 “(IV) the Secretary determines
10 that such 10-year period should be ex-
11 tended for one or more stocks of fish
12 of a multi-species fishery, provided
13 that there is evidence that those
14 stocks are on a positive rebuilding
15 trend;

16 “(V) the Secretary determines
17 that such 10-year period should be ex-
18 tended because of a substantial
19 change to the biomass rebuilding tar-
20 get for the stock of fish concerned
21 after the rebuilding plan has taken ef-
22 fect; or

23 “(VI) the Secretary determines
24 that such 10-year period should be ex-
25 tended because the biomass rebuilding

1 target exceeds the highest abundance
2 of the stock of fish in the 25-year pe-
3 riod preceding and there is evidence
4 that the stock is on a positive rebuild-
5 ing trend;” or

6 (2) in paragraph (7), in the matter preceding
7 subparagraph (A), by inserting after the first sen-
8 tence the following: “In evaluating progress to end
9 overfishing and to rebuild overfished stocks of fish,
10 the Secretary shall review factors, other than com-
11 mercial fishing and recreational fishing, that may
12 contribute to a stock of fish’s overfished status, such
13 as commercial, residential, and industrial develop-
14 ment of, or agricultural activity in, coastal areas and
15 their impact on the marine environment, predator/
16 prey relationships of target and related species, and
17 other environmental and ecological changes to the
18 marine conditions.”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(8) If the Secretary determines that extended
21 rebuilding time is warranted under subclause (III),
22 (IV), (V), or (VI) of paragraph (4)(A)(ii), the max-
23 imum time allowed for rebuilding the stock of fish
24 concerned may not exceed the sum of the following
25 time periods:

1 “(A) The initial 10-year rebuilding period.

2 “(B) The expected time to rebuild the
3 stock absent any fishing mortality and under
4 prevailing environmental conditions.

5 “(C) The mean generation time of the
6 stock.

7 “(9) In this subsection the term ‘on a positive
8 rebuilding trend’ means that the biomass of the
9 stock of fish has shown a substantial increase in
10 abundance since the implementation of the rebuild-
11 ing plan.”.

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