

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1322

To establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8, 2017

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, 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 “American Fisheries
5 Advisory Committee Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMERICAN FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 2 of the Act of Au-
8 gust 11, 1939 (15 U.S.C. 713e–3), is amended by adding
9 at the end the following:

1 “(f) AMERICAN FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

2 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

3 “(A) COMMITTEE.—The term ‘Committee’
4 means the American Fisheries Advisory Com-
5 mittee established under paragraph (2).

6 “(B) FISHING COMMUNITY.—The term
7 ‘fishing community’ means harvesters, market-
8 ers, growers, processors, recreational fishermen,
9 charter fishermen, and persons providing them
10 with goods and services.

11 “(C) MARKETING AND PROMOTION.—The
12 term ‘marketing and promotion’ means an ac-
13 tivity aimed at encouraging the consumption of
14 seafood or expanding or maintaining commer-
15 cial markets for seafood.

16 “(D) PROCESSOR.—The term ‘processor’
17 means any person in the business of preparing
18 or packaging seafood (including seafood of the
19 processor’s own harvesting) for sale.

20 “(E) SEAFOOD.—The term ‘seafood’
21 means farm-raised and wild-caught fish, shell-
22 fish, or marine algae harvested in the United
23 States or by a United States flagged vessel for
24 human consumption.

1 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days
2 after the date of the enactment of the American
3 Fisheries Advisory Committee Act, the Secretary
4 shall establish 6 regions within the American Fish-
5 eries Advisory Committee as follows:

6 “(A) Region 1 shall consist of Alaska, Ha-
7 waii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-
8 iana Islands, and the Territories of Guam and
9 American Samoa.

10 “(B) Region 2 shall consist of Maine, New
11 Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and
12 Connecticut.

13 “(C) Region 3 shall consist of Texas, Ala-
14 bama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Arkan-
15 sas, Puerto Rico, and territory of the Virgin Is-
16 lands.

17 “(D) Region 4 shall consist of California,
18 Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

19 “(E) Region 5 shall consist of New Jersey,
20 New York, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia,
21 North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

22 “(F) Region 6 shall consist of Michigan,
23 Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio,
24 and Pennsylvania.

1 “(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee shall be
2 composed of the following members:

3 “(A) REGIONAL REPRESENTATION.—Each
4 of the regions listed in subparagraphs (A)
5 through (F) of paragraph (2) shall be rep-
6 resented on the Committee by 3 members—

7 “(i) who are appointed by the Sec-
8 retary;

9 “(ii) who reside in a State or territory
10 in the region that the member will rep-
11 resent;

12 “(iii) of which—

13 “(I) one shall have experience as
14 a seafood harvester;

15 “(II) one shall have experience as
16 a processor; and

17 “(III) one shall have experience
18 as a recreational fisher; and

19 “(iv) that are selected so that the
20 members of the Committee have experience
21 or expertise with as many seafood species
22 as practicable.

23 “(B) AT-LARGE MEMBERS.—The Secretary
24 shall appoint to the Committee at-large mem-
25 bers to ensure that the Committee fairly re-

1 flects the expertise and interest of the fishing
2 community located in each region, as follows:

3 “(i) One individual with experience in
4 mass market food distribution.

5 “(ii) One individual with experience in
6 mass market food retail or food service.

7 “(iii) One individual with experience
8 in the marketing of seafood.

9 “(iv) One individual with experience
10 in growing seafood.

11 “(v) One individual with experience as
12 a recreational fisher.

13 “(vi) One individual who is an em-
14 ployee of the National Marine Fisheries
15 Service with expertise in fisheries research.

16 “(vii) One individual that represents
17 the fisheries science community.

18 “(4) MEMBER TERMS.—The term for a member
19 of the Committee shall be 3 years, except that the
20 Secretary shall designate staggered terms for the
21 members initially appointed to the Committee.

22 “(5) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Committee shall
23 be responsible for—

1 “(A) identifying needs of the fishing com-
2 munity that may be addressed by a project
3 funded with a grant under subsection (c);

4 “(B) developing the request for proposals
5 for such grants;

6 “(C) reviewing applications for such
7 grants; and

8 “(D) selecting applications for approval
9 under subsection (c)(2)(B).

10 “(6) CHAIR.—The Committee shall elect a chair
11 by a majority of those voting, if a quorum is
12 present.

13 “(7) QUORUM.—A simple majority of members
14 of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but a
15 lesser number may hold hearings.

16 “(8) MEETINGS.—

17 “(A) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall
18 meet not more than 2 times each year.

19 “(B) LOCATION.—The meetings of the
20 Committee shall rotate between the geographic
21 regions described under paragraph (2).

22 “(9) STAFF.—The Committee may employ staff
23 as necessary.

24 “(10) PER DIEM AND EXPENSES AND FUND-
25 ING.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the
2 Committee shall serve without compensation,
3 but shall be reimbursed in accordance with sec-
4 tion 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for
5 reasonable travel costs and expenses incurred in
6 performing duties as a member of the Com-
7 mittee.

8 “(B) FUNDING.—The reimbursements
9 made under subparagraph (A) shall be paid
10 with the funds made available for grants under
11 subsection (c).

12 “(11) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—The conflict of
13 interest and recusal provisions set out in section
14 302(j) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conserva-
15 tion and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(j)) shall
16 apply to any decision by the Committee and to all
17 members of the Committee as if each member of the
18 Committee is an affected individual within the mean-
19 ing of such section 302(j), except that in addition to
20 the disclosure requirements of section 302(j)(2)(C)
21 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(j)(2)(C)), each member
22 of the Committee shall disclose any financial interest
23 or relationship in an organization or with an indi-
24 vidual that is applying for a grant under subsection
25 (c) held by the member of the Committee, including

1 an interest as an officer, director, trustee, partner,
2 employee, contractor, agent, or other representa-
3 tive.”.

4 (b) ROLE IN APPROVAL OF GRANTS.—Section
5 2(c)(3) of the Act of August 11, 1939 (15 U.S.C. 713c–
6 3(c)(3)), is amended to read as follows:

7 “(3)(A) No application for a grant under this sub-
8 section may be approved unless—

9 “(i) the Secretary is satisfied that the ap-
10 plicant has the requisite technical and financial
11 capability to carry out the project;

12 “(ii) the Secretary evaluates the proposed
13 project as to—

14 “(I) the selections of the Committee
15 established in subsection (f);

16 “(II) soundness of design;

17 “(III) the possibilities of securing pro-
18 ductive results;

19 “(IV) minimization of duplication with
20 other fisheries research and development
21 projects;

22 “(V) the organization and manage-
23 ment of the project;

1 “(VI) methods proposed for moni-
2 toring and evaluating the success or failure
3 of the project; and

4 “(VII) such other criteria as the Sec-
5 retary may require; and

6 “(iii) the application selected for funding
7 meets the proposal developed by the American
8 Fisheries Advisory Committee under subsection
9 (f).

10 “(B) JUSTIFICATION.—If the Secretary fails to
11 provide funds to a grant selected by the Committee,
12 the Secretary shall provide a written document to
13 the Committee justifying the decision.”.

14 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF GRANTS PROPOSALS.**

15 Section 2(c) of the Act of August 11, 1939 (15
16 U.S.C. 713c–3(c)), is amended by adding at the end the
17 following:

18 “(6) Any person awarded a grant under this
19 subsection shall make publicly available a title and
20 abstract of the project to be carried out by the grant
21 funds that serves as the public justification for fund-
22 ing the project that includes a statement describing
23 how the project serves to enhance United States
24 fisheries, including harvesting, processing, mar-

- 1 keting, and associated infrastructures, if applica-
- 2 ble.”.

○