H. R. 1023

To authorize the Director of the United States Geological Survey to conduct monitoring, assessment, science, and research, in support of the binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 6, 2019

Mr. Quigley (for himself, Mr. Upton, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Higgins of New York, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Kildee, Mr. Huizenga, Mr. Joyce of Ohio, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Collins of New York, Mr. Bergman, Mr. Stauber, Ms. Slotkin, Mr. Gonzalez of Ohio, and Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Director of the United States Geological Survey to conduct monitoring, assessment, science, and research, in support of the binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Great Lakes Fishery Research Authorization Act of 2019”.

1 2 3 4 5
SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(2) GREAT LAKES BASIN.—The term “Great Lakes Basin” means the air, land, water, and living organisms in the United States within the drainage basin of the Saint Lawrence River at and upstream from the point at which such river and the Great Lakes become the international boundary between Canada and the United States.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Great Lakes support a diverse ecosystem, on which the vibrant and economically valuable Great Lakes fisheries depend.

(2) To continue successful fisheries management and coordination, as has occurred since signing of the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between the United States and Canada on September 10, 1954, management of the ecosystem and its fisheries require sound, reliable science, and the use of modern scientific technologies.

(3) Fisheries research is necessary to support multi-jurisdictional fishery management decisions and actions regarding recreational and sport fishing,
commercial fisheries, tribal harvest, allocation decisions, and fish stocking activities.

(4) President Richard Nixon submitted, and the Congress approved, Reorganization Plan No. 4 (84 Stat. 2090), conferring science activities and management of marine fisheries to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(5) Reorganization Plan No. 4 expressly excluded fishery research activities within the Great Lakes from the transfer, retaining management and scientific research duties within the already established jurisdictions under the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, including those of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Department of the Interior.

SEC. 4. GREAT LAKES MONITORING, ASSESSMENT, SCIENCE, AND RESEARCH.

(a) In General.—The Director may conduct monitoring, assessment, science, and research, in support of the binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin.

(b) Specific Authorities.—The Director shall, under subsection (a)—

(1) execute a comprehensive, multi-lake, freshwater fisheries science program;
(2) coordinate with and work cooperatively with regional, State, tribal, and local governments; and

(3) consult with other interested entities groups, including academia and relevant Canadian agencies.

(c) INCLUDED RESEARCH.—To properly serve the needs of fisheries managers, monitoring, assessment, science, and research under this section may include—

(1) deepwater ecosystem sciences;

(2) biological and food-web components;

(3) fish movement and behavior investigations;

(4) fish population structures;

(5) fish habitat investigations;

(6) invasive species science;

(7) use of existing, new, and experimental biological assessment tools, equipment, vessels, other scientific instrumentation and laboratory capabilities necessary to support fishery management decisions; and

(8) studies to assess impacts on Great Lakes fishery resources.

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act is intended or shall be construed to impede, supersede, or alter the authority of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, States, and Indian tribes under the Convention on Great
1 Lakes Fisheries between the United States of America and
2 Canada on September 10, 1954, and the Great Lakes
3 Fishery Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 931 et seq.).
4 SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
5 For each of fiscal years 2020 through 2029, there
6 is authorized to be appropriated $17,500,000 to carry out
7 this Act.