

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 496

AN ACT

To preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Young Fishermen’s
3 Development Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) SEA GRANT INSTITUTION.—The term “Sea
7 Grant Institution” means a sea grant college or sea
8 grant institute, as those terms are defined in section
9 203 of the National Sea Grant College Program Act
10 (33 U.S.C. 1122).

11 (2) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “Tribal
12 organization” has the meaning given the term “trib-
13 al organization” in section 4 of the Indian Self-De-
14 termination and Education Assistance Act (25
15 U.S.C. 5304).

16 (3) YOUNG FISHERMAN.—The term “young
17 fisherman” means an individual who—

18 (A) desires to participate in the commer-
19 cial fisheries of the United States, including the
20 Great Lakes fisheries;

21 (B) has worked as a captain, crew mem-
22 ber, or deckhand on a commercial fishing vessel
23 for not more than 10 years of cumulative serv-
24 ice; or

25 (C) is a beginning commercial fisherman.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

2 The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Na-
3 tional Sea Grant Office, shall establish a program to pro-
4 vide training, education, outreach, and technical assist-
5 ance initiatives for young fishermen, to be known as the
6 “Young Fishermen’s Development Grant Program” (re-
7 ferred to in this section as the “Program”).

8 **SEC. 4. GRANTS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the
10 Secretary shall make competitive grants to support new
11 and established local and regional training, education, out-
12 reach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fisher-
13 men, including programs, workshops, and services relating
14 to—

15 (1) seamanship, navigation, electronics, and
16 safety;

17 (2) vessel and engine care, maintenance, and
18 repair;

19 (3) innovative conservation fishing gear engi-
20 neering and technology;

21 (4) sustainable fishing practices;

22 (5) entrepreneurship and good business prac-
23 tices;

24 (6) direct marketing, supply chain, and
25 traceability;

1 (7) financial and risk management, including
2 vessel, permit, and quota purchasing;

3 (8) State and Federal legal requirements for
4 specific fisheries, including reporting, monitoring, li-
5 censes, and regulations;

6 (9) State and Federal fisheries policy and man-
7 agement;

8 (10) mentoring, apprenticeships, or internships;
9 and

10 (11) any other activities, opportunities, or pro-
11 grams, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

12 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

13 (1) APPLICANTS.—To be eligible to receive a
14 grant under the Program, a recipient shall be a col-
15 laborative State, Tribal, local, or regionally based
16 network or partnership of public or private entities,
17 which may include—

18 (A) a Sea Grant Institution;

19 (B) a Federal or State agency or a Tribal
20 organization;

21 (C) a community-based nongovernmental
22 organization;

23 (D) fishermen’s cooperatives or associa-
24 tions;

1 (E) an institution of higher education (in-
2 cluding an institution awarding an associate's
3 degree), or a foundation maintained by an insti-
4 tution of higher education; or

5 (F) any other appropriate entity, as the
6 Secretary determines appropriate.

7 (2) PARTICIPANTS.—All young fishermen seek-
8 ing to participate in the commercial fisheries of the
9 United States and the Great Lakes are eligible to
10 participate in the activities funded through grants
11 provided for in this section, except that participants
12 in such activities shall be selected by each grant re-
13 cipient.

14 (c) MAXIMUM TERM AND AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section
16 shall—

17 (A) have a term of no more than 3 fiscal
18 years; and

19 (B) be in an amount that is not more than
20 \$200,000 for each fiscal year.

21 (2) CONSECUTIVE GRANTS.—An eligible recipi-
22 ent may receive consecutive grants under this sec-
23 tion.

24 (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible to re-
25 ceive a grant under this section, a recipient shall provide

1 a match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions from
2 the recipient in the amount equal to or greater than 25
3 percent of the funds provided by the grant.

4 (e) REGIONAL BALANCE.—In making grants under
5 this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent
6 practicable, ensure geographic diversity.

7 (f) COOPERATION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In
8 carrying out this section and in developing criteria for
9 evaluating grant applications, the Secretary shall consult,
10 to the maximum extent practicable, with—

11 (1) Sea Grant Institutions and extension agents
12 of such institutions;

13 (2) community-based nongovernmental fishing
14 organizations;

15 (3) Federal and State agencies, including Re-
16 gional Fishery Management Councils established
17 under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
18 and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.);

19 (4) institutions of higher education with fish-
20 eries expertise and programs; and

21 (5) partners, as the Secretary determines.

22 (g) PROHIBITION.—A grant under this section may
23 not be used to purchase any fishing license, permit, quota,
24 or other harvesting right.

1 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

2 The Secretary of Commerce shall carry out this Act
3 using amounts made available to the Department of Com-
4 merce for fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

Passed the Senate December 2, 2020.

Attest:

Secretary.

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