

prosecutors, judges, individuals working in victim services, adult protective services, medical personnel, mental health personnel, financial services personnel, and any other individuals that encounter and support people living with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia.

The legislation before us builds upon existing requirements for training materials by requiring the Elder Justice Coordinator to engage in greater consultation with relevant entities and stakeholders.

H.R. 6813 would also require further training materials relating to victims and witnesses who have Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

One study determined that a significant subset of individuals with dementia illnesses could reliably report on emotional events and were even able to report details of the event accurately and to recall the same event with the same accuracy after a short time delay.

Crime victims with dementia should be evaluated for their ability to remember emotional events in order to determine whether they can provide testimony about the criminal events.

This legislation would require the Elder Justice Coordinator to develop specific training materials for these types of cases.

The bill also aligns with the latest recommendations from the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, which includes disseminating information on abuse of this vulnerable population and educating law enforcement about interacting with these individuals.

Mr. Speaker, dementia-specific training materials will improve the quality of professionals' interactions with individuals living with Alzheimer's and other dementia, and will also help protect them from elder abuse and exploitation.

Mr. Speaker, in this time when the nation is being ravaged by the coronavirus pandemic, greater dissemination of best practices and improved training materials will help first responders, law enforcement, medical professionals and other individuals effectively interact with people living with Alzheimer's and other dementia who are targeted by fraud and in need.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just wanted to again reiterate what an honor it was to work with my friend and colleague, Representative TED DEUTCH, on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 6813, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this issue touches millions of families across America who have a loved one living with Alzheimer's or dementia.

For this vulnerable population, there is far too great a risk of elder abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation, and the current pandemic has taken a tremendous toll. Across the country, residents of long-term care facilities are facing increased risk around COVID-19, as well as greater mortality rates.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting pas-

sage of H.R. 6813 today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6813.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMERICA'S CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3051) to improve protections for wildlife, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3051

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "America's Conservation Enhancement Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT, DISEASE, AND PREDATION

Sec. 101. Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict.

Sec. 102. Losses of livestock due to depredation by federally protected species.

Sec. 103. Depredation permits for black vultures and common ravens.

Sec. 104. Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force.

Sec. 105. Invasive species.

Sec. 106. North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Sec. 107. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act.

Sec. 108. Modification of definition of sport fishing equipment under Toxic Substances Control Act.

Sec. 109. Reauthorization of Chesapeake Bay Program.

Sec. 110. Reauthorization of Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998.

Sec. 111. Chesapeake watershed investments for landscape defense.

TITLE II—NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Sec. 201. Purpose.

Sec. 202. Definitions.

Sec. 203. National Fish Habitat Board.

Sec. 204. Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Sec. 205. Fish Habitat Conservation Projects.

Sec. 206. Technical and scientific assistance.

Sec. 207. Coordination with States and Indian Tribes.

Sec. 208. Interagency Operational Plan.

Sec. 209. Accountability and reporting.

Sec. 210. Effect of this title.

Sec. 211. Nonapplicability of Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Sec. 212. Funding.

Sec. 213. Prohibition against implementation of regulatory authority by Federal agencies through Partnerships.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 301. Study to review conservation factors.

Sec. 302. Study and report on expenditures.

Sec. 303. Use of value of land for cost sharing.

TITLE I—WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT, DISEASE, AND PREDATION

SEC. 101. THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE FOR REDUCING HUMAN-PREDATOR CONFLICT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7001(d) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 742b note; Public Law 116-9) is amended—

(1) by striking "paragraph (7)(A)" each place such term appears and inserting "paragraph (8)(A)";

(2) by striking "paragraph (7)(B)" each place such term appears and inserting "paragraph (8)(B)";

(3) in paragraph (6)(C)(iv), by striking "subparagraph (C)" and inserting "clause (iii)";

(4) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8);

(5) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

"(7) THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE FOR REDUCING HUMAN-PREDATOR CONFLICT.—

"(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

"(i) BOARD.—The term 'Board' means the Reducing Human-Predator Conflict Technology Advisory Board established by subparagraph (C)(i).

"(ii) PRIZE COMPETITION.—The term 'prize competition' means the Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict established under subparagraph (B).

"(B) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the America's Conservation Enhancement Act, the Secretary shall establish under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) a prize competition, to be known as the 'Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict'—

"(i) to encourage technological innovation with the potential to advance the mission of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service with respect to reducing the frequency of human-predator conflict using nonlethal means; and

"(ii) to award 1 or more prizes annually for a technological advancement that promotes reducing human-predator conflict using nonlethal means, which may include the application and monitoring of tagging technologies.

"(C) ADVISORY BOARD.—

"(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an advisory board, to be known as the 'Reducing Human-Predator Conflict Technology Advisory Board'.

"(ii) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be composed of not fewer than 9 members appointed by the Secretary, who shall provide expertise in—

"(I) predator-human interactions;

"(II) the habitats of large predators;

"(III) biology;

"(IV) technology development;

"(V) engineering;

"(VI) economics;

"(VII) business development and management; and

"(VIII) any other discipline, as the Secretary determines to be necessary to achieve the purposes of this paragraph.

"(iii) DUTIES.—Subject to clause (iv), with respect to the prize competition, the Board shall—

"(I) select a topic;

"(II) issue a problem statement;

"(III) advise the Secretary regarding any opportunity for technological innovation to reduce human-predator conflict using nonlethal means; and

“(IV) advise winners of the prize competition regarding opportunities to pilot and implement winning technologies in relevant fields, including in partnership with conservation organizations, Federal or State agencies, federally recognized Indian Tribes, private entities, and research institutions with expertise or interest relating to reducing human-predator conflict using nonlethal means.

“(iv) CONSULTATION.—In selecting a topic and issuing a problem statement for the prize competition under subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (iii), respectively, the Board shall consult widely with Federal and non-Federal stakeholders, including—

“(I) 1 or more Federal agencies with jurisdiction over the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities;

“(II) 1 or more State agencies with jurisdiction over the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities;

“(III) 1 or more State, regional, or local wildlife organizations, the mission of which relates to the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities; and

“(IV) 1 or more wildlife conservation groups, technology companies, research institutions, institutions of higher education, industry associations, or individual stakeholders with an interest in the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities.

“(v) REQUIREMENTS.—The Board shall comply with all requirements under paragraph (8)(A).

“(D) AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer to enter into an agreement under which the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation shall administer the prize competition.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—An agreement entered into under clause (i) shall comply with all requirements under paragraph (8)(B).

“(E) JUDGES.—

“(i) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall appoint not fewer than 3 judges who shall, except as provided in clause (ii), select the 1 or more annual winners of the prize competition.

“(ii) DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.—The judges appointed under clause (i) shall not select any annual winner of the prize competition if the Secretary makes a determination that, in any fiscal year, none of the technological advancements entered into the prize competition merits an award.

“(F) CONSULTATION WITH NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in the case of a cash prize awarded under the prize competition for a technology that addresses conflict between humans and marine predators under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(G) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which a cash prize is awarded under this paragraph, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the prize competition that includes—

“(i) a statement by the Board that describes the activities carried out by the Board relating to the duties described in subparagraph (C)(iii);

“(ii) if the Secretary has entered into an agreement under subparagraph (D)(i), a

statement by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that describes the activities carried out by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation relating to the duties described in paragraph (8)(B); and

“(iii) a statement by 1 or more of the judges appointed under subparagraph (E) that explains the basis on which the winner of the cash prize was selected.

“(H) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The Board and all authority provided under this paragraph shall terminate on December 31, 2023.”; and

(6) in paragraph (8) (as redesignated)—
(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or (6)(C)(i)” and inserting “(6)(C)(i), or (7)(C)(i)””; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—
(i) by striking “or (6)(D)(i)” and inserting “(6)(D)(i), or (7)(D)(i)””; and

(ii) in clause (i)(VII), by striking “and (6)(E)” and inserting “(6)(E), and (7)(E)”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that data collected from the tagging of predators can inform innovative management of those predators and innovative education activities to minimize human-predator conflict.

**SEC. 102. LOSSES OF LIVESTOCK DUE TO DEPRE-
DATION BY FEDERALLY PROTECTED
SPECIES.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPREDATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “depredation” means actual death, injury, or destruction of livestock that is caused by a federally protected species.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “depredation” does not include damage to real or personal property other than livestock, including—

- (i) damage to—
 - (I) other animals;
 - (II) vegetation;
 - (III) motor vehicles; or
 - (IV) structures;
- (ii) diseases;
- (iii) lost profits; or
- (iv) consequential damages.

(2) FEDERALLY PROTECTED SPECIES.—The term “federally protected species” means a species that is or previously was protected under—

(A) the Act of June 8, 1940 (commonly known as the “Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act”) (54 Stat. 250, chapter 278; 16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

(C) the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.).

(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given to the term “Indian tribe” in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(4) LIVESTOCK.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “livestock” means horses, mules and asses, rabbits, llamas, cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, bees, honey and beehives, or any other animal generally used for food or in the production of food or fiber.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term “livestock” includes guard animals actively engaged in the protection of livestock described in subparagraph (A).

(5) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means the grant program established under subsection (b)(1).

(6) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries” means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM FOR LOSSES OF LIVESTOCK DUE TO DEPREDATION BY FEDERALLY PROTECTED SPECIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall establish a program to provide grants to States and Indian Tribes to supplement amounts provided by States, Indian Tribes, or State agencies under 1 or more programs established by the States and Indian Tribes (including programs established after the date of enactment of this Act)—

(A) to assist livestock producers in carrying out—

(i) proactive and nonlethal activities to reduce the risk of livestock loss due to depredation by federally protected species occurring on—

(I) Federal, State, or private land within the applicable State; or

(II) land owned by, or held in trust for the benefit of, the applicable Indian Tribe; and

(ii) research relating to the activities described in clause (i); and

(B) to compensate livestock producers for livestock losses due to depredation by federally protected species occurring on—

(i) Federal, State, or private land within the applicable State; or

(ii) land owned by, or held in trust for the benefit of, the applicable Indian Tribe.

(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—

(A) REPORTS TO THE SECRETARIES.—Not later than September 30 of each year, a State or Indian Tribe desiring to receive a grant under the program shall submit to the Secretaries a report describing, for the 1-year period ending on that September 30, the losses of livestock due to depredation by federally protected species occurring on—

(i) Federal, State, or private land within the applicable State; or

(ii) land owned by, or held in trust for the benefit of, the applicable Indian Tribe.

(B) ALLOCATION.—The Secretaries shall allocate available funding to carry out this Act among States and Indian Tribes for a 1-year period ending on September 30 based on the losses described in the reports submitted for the previous 1-year period ending on September 30 under subparagraph (A).

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1), a State or Indian Tribe shall—

(A) designate an appropriate agency of the State or Indian Tribe to administer the 1 or more programs supplemented by the grant funds;

(B) establish 1 or more accounts to receive grant funds;

(C) maintain files of all claims received and paid under grant-funded programs, including supporting documentation; and

(D) submit to the Secretaries—

(i) annual reports that include—

(I) a summary of claims and expenditures under the program during the year; and

(II) a description of any action taken on the claims; and

(ii) such other reports as the Secretaries may require to assist the Secretaries in determining the effectiveness of assisted activities under this section.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) no State or Indian Tribe is required to participate in the program; and

(2) the program supplements, and does not replace or supplant, any State compensation programs for depredation.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, of which—

(1) \$5,000,000 shall be used to provide grants for the purposes described in subsection (b)(1)(A); and

(2) \$10,000,000 shall be used to provide grants for the purpose described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

SEC. 103. DEPREDATION PERMITS FOR BLACK VULTURES AND COMMON RAVENS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), may issue depredation permits to livestock producers authorizing takings of black vultures or common ravens otherwise prohibited by Federal law to prevent those vultures or common ravens from taking livestock during the calving season or lambing season.

(b) LIMITED TO AFFECTED STATES OR REGIONS.—The Secretary may issue permits under subsection (a) only to livestock producers in States and regions in which livestock producers are affected or have been affected in the previous year by black vultures or common ravens, as determined by Secretary.

(c) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall require, as a condition of a permit under subsection (a), that the permit holder shall report to the appropriate enforcement agencies the takings of black vultures or common ravens pursuant to the permit.

SEC. 104. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TASK FORCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CERVID.—The term “cervid” means any species within the family Cervidae.

(2) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—The term “chronic wasting disease” means the animal disease afflicting deer, elk, and moose populations that—

(A) is a transmissible disease of the nervous system resulting in distinctive lesions in the brain; and

(B) belongs to the group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, which group includes scrapie, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

(3) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, acting jointly.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall establish within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service a task force, to be known as the “Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force” (referred to in this subsection as the “Task Force”) after the completion of the study required by subsection (c).

(2) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

(A) collaborate with foreign governments to share research, coordinate efforts, and discuss best management practices to reduce, minimize, prevent, or eliminate chronic wasting disease in the United States;

(B) develop recommendations, including recommendations based on findings of the study conducted under subsection (c), and a set of best practices regarding—

(i) the interstate coordination of practices to prevent the new introduction of chronic wasting disease;

(ii) the prioritization and coordination of the future study of chronic wasting disease, based on evolving research needs;

(iii) ways to leverage the collective resources of Federal, State, and local agencies, Indian Tribes, and foreign governments, and resources from private, nongovernmental entities, to address chronic wasting disease in the United States and along the borders of the United States; and

(iv) any other area where containment or management efforts relating to chronic

wasting disease may differ across jurisdictions; and

(C) develop, from the recommendations developed under subparagraph (B), an action plan that gives States, the Federal Government, Indian Tribes, and the farmed cervid industry specific recommendations to ensure consistent and coordinated management and focused, prioritized research to stop the spread of and mitigate the impacts of chronic wasting disease.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be composed of—

(i) 1 representative of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service with experience in chronic wasting disease, to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretary”);

(ii) 1 representative of the United States Geological Survey;

(iii) 2 representatives of the Department of Agriculture with experience in chronic wasting disease, to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture—

(I) 1 of whom shall have expertise in cervid health research; and

(II) 1 of whom shall have expertise in wildlife management;

(iv) in the case of each State in which chronic wasting disease among elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, or moose has been reported to the appropriate State agency, not more than 2 representatives, to be nominated by the Governor of the State—

(I) not more than 1 of whom shall be a representative of the State agency with jurisdiction over wildlife management or wildlife disease in the State; and

(II) in the case of a State with a farmed cervid program or economy, not more than 1 of whom shall be a representative of the State agency with jurisdiction over farmed cervid regulation in the State;

(v) in the case of each State in which chronic wasting disease among elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, or moose has not been documented, but that has carried out measures to prevent the introduction of chronic wasting disease among those species, not more than 2 representatives, to be nominated by the Governor of the State;

(vi) not more than 2 representatives from an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization chosen in a process determined, in consultation with Indian Tribes, by the Secretary; and

(vii) not more than 5 nongovernmental members with relevant expertise appointed, after the date on which the members are first appointed under clauses (i) through (vi), by a majority vote of the State representatives appointed under clause (iv).

(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph requires a State to participate in the Task Force.

(4) CO-CHAIRS.—The Co-Chairs of the Task Force shall be—

(A) the Federal representative described in paragraph (3)(A)(i);

(B) 1 of the Federal representatives described in paragraph (3)(A)(iii); and

(C) 1 State representative appointed under paragraph (3)(A)(iv), to be selected by a majority vote of those State representatives.

(5) DATE OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Task Force shall be appointed not later than 180 days after the date on which the study is completed under subsection (c).

(B) NOTIFICATION.—On appointment of the members of the Task Force, the Co-Chairs of the Task Force shall notify the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Committees on Environment and Public Works and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and Natural Resources and Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(6) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the members appointed to the Task Force—

(A) shall not affect the power or duty of the Task Force; and

(B) shall be filled not later than 30 days after the date of the vacancy.

(7) MEETINGS.—The Task Force shall convene—

(A) not less frequently than twice each year; and

(B) at such time and place, and by such means, as the Co-Chairs of the Task Force determine to be appropriate, which may include the use of remote conference technology.

(8) INTERSTATE ACTION PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the members of the Task Force are appointed, the Task Force shall submit to the Secretaries, and the heads of the State agencies with jurisdiction over wildlife disease and farmed cervid regulation of each State with a representative on the Task Force, the interstate action plan developed by the Task Force under paragraph (2)(C).

(B) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretaries, any other applicable Federal agency, and each applicable State may enter into a cooperative agreement to fund necessary actions under the interstate action plan submitted under subparagraph (A).

(ii) TARGET DATE.—The Secretaries shall make the best effort of the Secretaries to enter into any cooperative agreement under clause (i) not later than 180 days after the date of submission of the interstate action plan under subparagraph (A).

(C) MATCHING FUNDS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), for each fiscal year, the Secretaries may provide funds to carry out an interstate action plan through a cooperative agreement under subparagraph (B) in the amount of funds provided by the applicable States.

(ii) LIMITATION.—The amount provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service under clause (i) for a fiscal year shall be not greater than \$5,000,000.

(9) REPORTS.—Not later than September 30 of the first full fiscal year after the date on which the first members of the Task Force are appointed, and each September 30 thereafter, the Task Force shall submit to the Secretaries, and the heads of the State agencies with jurisdiction over wildlife disease and farmed cervid regulation of each State with a representatives on the Task Force, a report describing—

(A) progress on the implementation of actions identified in the interstate action plan submitted under paragraph (8)(A), including the efficacy of funding under the cooperative agreement entered into under paragraph (8)(B);

(B) updated resource requirements that are needed to reduce and eliminate chronic wasting disease in the United States;

(C) any relevant updates to the recommended best management practices included in the interstate action plan submitted under paragraph (8)(B) to reduce or eliminate chronic wasting disease;

(D) new research findings and emerging research needs relating to chronic wasting disease; and

(E) any other relevant information.

(c) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TRANSMISSION IN CERVIDAE RESOURCE STUDY.—

(1) DEFINITION OF ACADEMY.—In this subsection, the term “Academy” means the National Academy of Sciences.

(2) STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall enter into an arrangement with the Academy under which the Academy shall conduct, and submit to the Secretaries a report describing the findings of, a special resource study to identify the predominant pathways and mechanisms of the transmission of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The arrangement under subparagraph (A) shall provide that the actual expenses incurred by the Academy in conducting the study under subparagraph (A) shall be paid by the Secretaries, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(3) CONTENTS OF THE STUDY.—The study under paragraph (2) shall—

(A) with respect to wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States, identify—

(i)(I) to the extent possible, the pathways and mechanisms for the transmission of chronic wasting disease within live cervid populations and cervid products, which may include pathways and mechanisms for transmission from Canada;

(II) the infection rates for each pathway and mechanism identified under subclause (I); and

(III) the relative frequency of transmission of each pathway and mechanism identified under subclause (I);

(ii)(I) anthropogenic and environmental factors contributing to new chronic wasting disease emergence events;

(II) the development of geographical areas with increased chronic wasting disease prevalence; and

(III) the overall geographical patterns of chronic wasting disease distribution;

(iii) significant gaps in current scientific knowledge regarding the transmission pathways and mechanisms identified under clause (i)(I) and potential prevention, detection, and control methods identified under clause (v);

(iv) for prioritization the scientific research projects that will address the knowledge gaps identified under clause (iii), based on the likelihood that a project will contribute significantly to the prevention or control of chronic wasting disease; and

(v) potential prevention, detection, or control measures, practices, or technologies to be used to mitigate the transmission and spread of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States;

(B) assess the effectiveness of the potential prevention, detection, or control measures, practices, or technologies identified under subparagraph (A)(v); and

(C) review and compare science-based best practices, standards, and guidance regarding the prevention, detection, and management of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States that have been developed by—

(i) the National Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service;

(ii) the National Wildlife Research Center of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service;

(iii) the United States Geological Survey;

(iv) State wildlife and agricultural agencies, in the case of practices, standards, and guidance that provide practical, science-based recommendations to State and Federal agencies for minimizing or eliminating the risk of transmission of chronic wasting disease in the United States; and

(v) industry or academia, in the case of any published guidance on practices that provide practical, science-based recommendations to cervid producers for minimizing or elimi-

nating the risk of transmission of chronic wasting disease within or between herds.

(4) DEADLINE.—The study under paragraph (2) shall be completed not later than 180 days after the date on which funds are first made available for the study.

(5) DATA SHARING.—The Secretaries shall share with the Academy, as necessary to conduct the study under paragraph (2), subject to the avoidance of a violation of a privacy or confidentiality requirement and the protection of confidential or privileged commercial, financial, or proprietary information, data and access to databases and research information on chronic wasting disease under the jurisdiction of—

(A) the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

(B) the United States Geological Survey.

(6) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of completion of the study, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(A) the findings of the study; and

(B) any conclusions and recommendations that the Secretaries determine to be appropriate.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

(1) for the period of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, \$5,000,000 to the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to carry out administrative activities under subsection (b);

(2) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,200,000 to the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, to carry out activities to fund research under subsection (c); and

(3) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,200,000 to the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, to carry out activities to fund research under subsection (c).

SEC. 105. INVASIVE SPECIES.

Section 10 of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 666c-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting before clause (ii) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(i) relevant Federal agencies;”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) in consultation with stakeholders, including nongovernmental organizations and industry;”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(p) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025—

“(1) \$2,500,000 to the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers; and

“(2) \$2,500,000 to the Secretary of the Interior.”.

SEC. 106. NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT.

Section 7(c) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4406(c)) is amended by striking “not to exceed—” in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all

that follows through paragraph (5) and inserting “not to exceed \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.

SEC. 107. NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.

(a) BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FOUNDATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3702) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS.—After consulting with the Secretary of Commerce and considering the recommendations submitted by the Board, the Secretary of the Interior shall appoint 28 Directors who, to the maximum extent practicable, shall—

“(A) be knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to the conservation of fish, wildlife, or other natural resources; and

“(B) represent a balance of expertise in ocean, coastal, freshwater, and terrestrial resource conservation.”; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) TERMS.—Each Director (other than a Director described in paragraph (1)) shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.”; and

(B) in subsection (g)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “(A) Officers and employees may not be appointed until the Foundation has sufficient funds to pay them for their service. Officers” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Officers”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Foundation shall have an Executive Director who shall be—

“(i) appointed by, and serve at the direction of, the Board as the chief executive officer of the Foundation; and

“(ii) knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to fish and wildlife conservation.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4(a)(1)(B) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4403(a)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “Secretary of the Board” and inserting “Executive Director of the Board”.

(b) RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF FOUNDATION.—Section 4 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3703) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “(c) POWERS.—To carry out its purposes under” and inserting the following:

“(c) POWERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purposes described in”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (11) as subparagraphs (A) through (K), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(C) in subparagraph (D) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking “that are insured by an agency or instrumentality of the United States” and inserting “at 1 or more financial institutions that are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Securities Investment Protection Corporation”;

(D) in subparagraph (E) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking “paragraph (3) or (4)” and inserting “subparagraph (C) or (D)”;

(E) in subparagraph (J) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking “and” at the end;

(F) by striking subparagraph (K) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)) and inserting the following:

“(K) to receive and administer restitution and community service payments, amounts

for mitigation of impacts to natural resources, and other amounts arising from legal, regulatory, or administrative proceedings, subject to the condition that the amounts are received or administered for purposes that further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources; and

“(L) to do acts necessary to carry out the purposes of the Foundation.”; and

(G) by striking the undesignated matter at the end and inserting the following:

“(2) TREATMENT OF REAL PROPERTY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this Act, an interest in real property shall be treated as including easements or other rights for preservation, conservation, protection, or enhancement by and for the public of natural, scenic, historic, scientific, educational, inspirational, or recreational resources.

“(B) ENCUMBERED REAL PROPERTY.—A gift, devise, or bequest may be accepted by the Foundation even though the gift, devise, or bequest is encumbered, restricted, or subject to beneficial interests of private persons if any current or future interest in the gift, devise, or bequest is for the benefit of the Foundation.

“(3) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The acceptance and administration of amounts by the Foundation under paragraph (1)(K) does not alter, supersede, or limit any regulatory or statutory requirement associated with those amounts.”;

(2) by striking subsections (f) and (g); and

(3) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3709) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025—

“(A) \$15,000,000 to the Secretary of the Interior;

“(B) \$5,000,000 to the Secretary of Agriculture; and

“(C) \$5,000,000 to the Secretary of Commerce.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) AMOUNTS FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities are authorized to provide funds to the Foundation through Federal financial assistance grants and cooperative agreements, subject to the condition that the amounts are used for purposes that further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources in accordance with this Act.

“(B) ADVANCES.—Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities may advance amounts described in subparagraph (A) to the Foundation in a lump sum without regard to when the expenses for which the amounts are used are incurred.

“(C) MANAGEMENT FEES.—The Foundation may assess and collect fees for the management of amounts received under this paragraph.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “FUNDS” and inserting “AMOUNTS”;

(ii) by striking “shall be used” and inserting “may be used”; and

(iii) by striking “and State and local government agencies” and inserting “, State and local government agencies, and other entities”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ADMINISTRATION OF AMOUNTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In entering into contracts, agreements, or other partnerships pursuant to this Act, a Federal department, agency, or instrumentality shall have discretion to waive any competitive process applicable to the department, agency, or instrumentality for entering into contracts, agreements, or partnerships with the Foundation if the purpose of the waiver is—

“(i) to address an environmental emergency resulting from a natural or other disaster; or

“(ii) as determined by the head of the applicable Federal department, agency, or instrumentality, to reduce administrative expenses and expedite the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources.

“(B) REPORTS.—The Foundation shall include in the annual report submitted under section 7(b) a description of any use of the authority under subparagraph (A) by a Federal department, agency, or instrumentality in that fiscal year.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) USE OF GIFTS, DEVISES, OR BEQUESTS OF MONEY OR OTHER PROPERTY.—Any gifts, devises, or bequests of amounts or other property, or any other amounts or other property, transferred to, deposited with, or otherwise in the possession of the Foundation pursuant to this Act, may be made available by the Foundation to Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities and may be accepted and expended (or the disposition of the amounts or property directed), without further appropriation, by those Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities, subject to the condition that the amounts or property be used for purposes that further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources.”.

(d) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—Section 11 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3710) is amended by inserting “exclusive” before “authority”.

SEC. 108. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF SPORT FISHING EQUIPMENT UNDER TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT.

(a) PROHIBITION.—During the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not take any action to regulate the lead content of sport fishing equipment or sport fishing equipment components under the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.).

(b) DEFINITION OF SPORT FISHING EQUIPMENT.—In this section, the term “sport fishing equipment” means any sport fishing equipment (as such term is defined in section 4162(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) the sale of which is subject to the tax imposed by section 4161(a) of such Code (determined without regard to any exemptions from such tax provided by section 4162 or 4221 or any other provision of such Code).

SEC. 109. REAUTHORIZATION OF CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM.

Section 117 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1267) is amended by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

“(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(1) for fiscal year 2021, \$90,000,000;

“(2) for fiscal year 2022, \$90,500,000;

“(3) for fiscal year 2023, \$91,000,000;

“(4) for fiscal year 2024, \$91,500,000; and

“(5) for fiscal year 2025, \$92,000,000.”.

SEC. 110. REAUTHORIZATION OF CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE ACT OF 1998.

Section 502(c) of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-312) is

amended by striking “2019” and inserting “2025”.

SEC. 111. CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED INVESTMENTS FOR LANDSCAPE DEFENSE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENTS.—The term “Chesapeake Bay agreements” means the formal, voluntary agreements—

(A) executed to achieve the goal of restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay watershed ecosystem and the living resources of the Chesapeake Bay watershed ecosystem; and

(B) signed by the Chesapeake Executive Council.

(2) CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM.—The term “Chesapeake Bay program” means the program directed by the Chesapeake Executive Council in accordance with the Chesapeake Bay agreements.

(3) CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED.—The term “Chesapeake Bay watershed” means the region that covers—

(A) the Chesapeake Bay;

(B) the portions of the States of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia that drain into the Chesapeake Bay; and

(C) the District of Columbia.

(4) CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.—The term “Chesapeake Executive Council” means the council comprised of—

(A) the Governors of each of the States of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia;

(B) the Mayor of the District of Columbia;

(C) the Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission; and

(D) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(5) CHESAPEAKE WILD PROGRAM.—The term “Chesapeake WILD program” means the nonregulatory program established by the Secretary under subsection (b)(1).

(6) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term “grant program” means the Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense grant program established by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1).

(7) RESTORATION AND PROTECTION ACTIVITY.—The term “restoration and protection activity” means an activity carried out for the conservation, stewardship, and enhancement of habitat for fish and wildlife—

(A) to preserve and improve ecosystems and ecological processes on which the fish and wildlife depend; and

(B) for use and enjoyment by the public.

(8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a nonregulatory program, to be known as the “Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense program”.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Chesapeake WILD program are—

(A) coordinating restoration and protection activities among Federal, State, local, and regional entities and conservation partners throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

(B) engaging other agencies and organizations to build a broader range of partner support, capacity, and potential funding for projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

(C) carrying out coordinated restoration and protection activities, and providing for technical assistance, throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed—

(i) to sustain and enhance restoration and protection activities;

(ii) to improve and maintain water quality to support fish and wildlife, habitats of fish and wildlife, and drinking water for people;

(iii) to sustain and enhance water management for volume and flood damage mitigation improvements to benefit fish and wildlife habitat;

(iv) to improve opportunities for public access and recreation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed consistent with the ecological needs of fish and wildlife habitat;

(v) to facilitate strategic planning to maximize the resilience of natural ecosystems and habitats under changing watershed conditions;

(vi) to engage the public through outreach, education, and citizen involvement to increase capacity and support for coordinated restoration and protection activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

(vii) to sustain and enhance vulnerable communities and fish and wildlife habitat;

(viii) to conserve and restore fish, wildlife, and plant corridors; and

(ix) to increase scientific capacity to support the planning, monitoring, and research activities necessary to carry out coordinated restoration and protection activities.

(3) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Chesapeake WILD program, the Secretary shall—

(A) draw on existing plans for the Chesapeake Bay watershed, or portions of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including the Chesapeake Bay agreements, and work in consultation with applicable management entities, including Chesapeake Bay program partners, such as the Federal Government, State and local governments, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and other regional organizations, as appropriate, to identify, prioritize, and implement restoration and protection activities within the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

(B) adopt a Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide strategy that—

(i) supports the implementation of a shared set of science-based restoration and protection activities developed in accordance with subparagraph (A); and

(ii) targets cost-effective projects with measurable results; and

(C) establish the grant program in accordance with subsection (c).

(4) COORDINATION.—In establishing the Chesapeake WILD program, the Secretary shall consult, as appropriate, with—

(A) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

(i) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(ii) the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(iii) the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(iv) the Chief of Engineers;

(v) the Director of the United States Geological Survey;

(vi) the Secretary of Transportation;

(vii) the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(viii) the head of any other applicable agency;

(B) the Governors of each of the States of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia;

(C) fish and wildlife joint venture partnerships; and

(D) other public agencies and organizations with authority for the planning and implementation of conservation strategies in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

(C) GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) CHESAPEAKE WILD GRANT PROGRAM.—To the extent that funds are made available to carry out this subsection, the Secretary shall establish and carry out, as part of the Chesapeake WILD program, a voluntary grant and technical assistance program, to

be known as the “Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense grant program”, to provide competitive matching grants of varying amounts and technical assistance to eligible entities described in paragraph (2) to carry out activities described in subsection (b)(2).

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The following entities are eligible to receive a grant and technical assistance under the grant program:

(A) A State.

(B) The District of Columbia.

(C) A unit of local government.

(D) A nonprofit organization.

(E) An institution of higher education as such term is defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(F) Any other entity that the Secretary determines to be appropriate in accordance with the criteria established under paragraph (3).

(3) CRITERIA.—The Secretary, in consultation with officials and entities described in subsection (b)(4), shall establish criteria for the grant program to help ensure that activities funded under this subsection—

(A) accomplish 1 or more of the purposes described in subsection (b)(2); and

(B) advance the implementation of priority actions or needs identified in the Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide strategy adopted under subsection (b)(3)(B).

(4) COST SHARING.—

(A) DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SHARE.—The Department of the Interior share of the cost of a project funded under the grant program shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) NON-DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SHARE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The non-Department of the Interior share of the cost of a project funded under the grant program may be provided in cash or in the form of an in-kind contribution of services or materials.

(ii) OTHER FEDERAL FUNDING.—Non-Department of the Interior Federal funds may be used for not more than 25 percent of the total cost of a project funded under the grant program.

(5) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may enter into an agreement to manage the grant program with an organization that offers grant management services.

(d) REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the implementation of this section, including a description of each project that has received funding under this section.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

(2) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made available under paragraph (1) shall supplement, and not supplant, funding for other activities conducted by the Secretary in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

TITLE II—NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

SEC. 201. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested persons to promote fish conservation—

(1) to achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships that lead to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities by—

(A) improving ecological conditions;

(B) restoring natural processes; or

(C) preventing the decline of intact and healthy systems;

(2) to establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment by Fish Habitat Partnerships;

(3) to broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by—

(A) increasing fishing opportunities;

(B) fostering the participation of local communities, especially young people in local communities, in conservation activities; and

(C) raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitat play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities;

(4) to fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and the associated database of the National Fish Habitat Assessment—

(A) to empower strategic conservation actions supported by broadly available scientific information; and

(B) to integrate socioeconomic data in the analysis to improve the lives of humans in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals; and

(5) to communicate to the public and conservation partners—

(A) the conservation outcomes produced collectively by Fish Habitat Partnerships; and

(B) new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the National Fish Habitat Board established by section 203.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(4) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator” means the Assistant Administrator for Water of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given to the term “Indian tribe” in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(6) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator” means the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(7) PARTNERSHIP.—The term “Partnership” means an entity designated by Congress as a Fish Habitat Partnership under section 204.

(8) REAL PROPERTY INTEREST.—The term “real property interest” means an ownership interest in—

(A) land; or

(B) water (including water rights).

(9) MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSIONS.—The term “Marine Fisheries Commissions” means—

(A) the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(B) the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; and

(C) the Pacific States Marine Commission.

(10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(11) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

(12) STATE AGENCY.—The term “State agency” means—

(A) the fish and wildlife agency of a State; and

(B) any department or division of a department or agency of a State that manages in the public trust the inland or marine fishery resources of the State or sustains the habitat for those fishery resources pursuant to State law or the constitution of the State.

SEC. 203. NATIONAL FISH HABITAT BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) FISH HABITAT BOARD.—There is established a board, to be known as the “National Fish Habitat Board”, whose duties are—

(A) to promote, oversee, and coordinate the implementation of this title;

(B) to establish national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation;

(C) to recommend to Congress entities for designation as Partnerships; and

(D) to review and make recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall be composed of 26 members, of whom—

(A) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of the Interior;

(B) 1 shall be a representative of the United States Geological Survey;

(C) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of Commerce;

(D) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of Agriculture;

(E) 1 shall be a representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;

(F) 4 shall be representatives of State agencies, 1 of whom shall be nominated by a regional association of fish and wildlife agencies from each of the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and Western regions of the United States;

(G) 2 shall be representatives of either—

(i) Indian Tribes in the State of Alaska; or
(ii) Indian Tribes in States other than the State of Alaska;

(H) 1 shall be a representative of either—

(i) the Regional Fishery Management Councils established under section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852); or
(ii) a representative of the Marine Fisheries Commissions;

(I) 1 shall be a representative of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council;

(J) 7 shall be representatives selected from at least one from each of the following:

(i) the recreational sportfishing industry;
(ii) the commercial fishing industry;
(iii) marine recreational anglers;
(iv) freshwater recreational anglers;
(v) habitat conservation organizations; and
(vi) science-based fishery organizations;

(K) 1 shall be a representative of a national private landowner organization;

(L) 1 shall be a representative of an agricultural production organization;

(M) 1 shall be a representative of local government interests involved in fish habitat restoration;

(N) 2 shall be representatives from different sectors of corporate industries, which may include—

(i) natural resource commodity interests, such as petroleum or mineral extraction;
(ii) natural resource user industries; and
(iii) industries with an interest in fish and fish habitat conservation; and

(O) 1 shall be an individual in a leadership position in the private sector or landowner representative of an active partnership.

(3) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Board shall serve without compensation.

(4) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Board may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Board.

(b) APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (F) through (O) of subsection (a)(2) shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(2) INITIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The initial Board shall consist of representatives as described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of subsection (a)(2).

(B) REMAINING MEMBERS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the representatives of the initial Board under subparagraph (A) shall appoint the remaining members of the Board described in subparagraphs (H) through (O) of subsection (a)(2).

(C) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the Board a recommendation of not fewer than three Tribal representatives, from which the Board shall appoint one representative pursuant to subparagraph (G) of subsection (a)(2).

(3) STAGGERED TERMS.—Of the members described in subsection (a)(2)(J) initially appointed to the Board—

(A) two shall be appointed for a term of 1 year;

(B) two shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(C) three shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(4) VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraph (H), (I), (J), (K), (L), (M), (N), or (O) of subsection (a)(2) shall be filled by an appointment made by the remaining members of the Board.

(B) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Following a vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraph (G) of subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall recommend to the Board a list of not fewer than three Tribal representatives, from which the remaining members of the Board shall appoint a representative to fill the vacancy.

(5) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—An individual whose term of service as a member of the Board expires may continue to serve on the Board until a successor is appointed.

(6) REMOVAL.—If a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (H) through (O) of subsection (a)(2) misses three consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings, the members of the Board may—

(A) vote to remove that member; and

(B) appoint another individual in accordance with paragraph (4).

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies appointed under subsection (a)(2)(E) shall serve as Chairperson of the Board.

(2) TERM.—The Chairperson of the Board shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(d) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet—

(A) at the call of the Chairperson; but

(B) not less frequently than twice each calendar year.

(2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—All meetings of the Board shall be open to the public.

(e) PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish procedures to carry out the business of the Board, including—

(A) a requirement that a quorum of the members of the Board be present to transact business;

(B) a requirement that no recommendations may be adopted by the Board, except by the vote of two-thirds of all members;

(C) procedures for establishing national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation for the purposes of this title;

(D) procedures for designating Partnerships under section 204; and

(E) procedures for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 204. FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO RECOMMEND.—The Board may recommend to Congress the designation of Fish Habitat Partnerships in accordance with this section.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of a Partnership shall be—

(1) to work with other regional habitat conservation programs to promote cooperation and coordination to enhance fish populations and fish habitats;

(2) to engage local and regional communities to build support for fish habitat conservation;

(3) to involve diverse groups of public and private partners;

(4) to develop collaboratively a strategic vision and achievable implementation plan that is scientifically sound;

(5) to leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships;

(6) to use adaptive management principles, including evaluation of project success and functionality;

(7) to develop appropriate local or regional habitat evaluation and assessment measures and criteria that are compatible with national habitat condition measures; and

(8) to implement local and regional priority projects that improve conditions for fish and fish habitat.

(c) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION.—An entity seeking to be designated by Congress as a Partnership shall—

(1) submit to the Board an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Board may reasonably require; and

(2) demonstrate to the Board that the entity has—

(A) a focus on promoting the health of important fish and fish habitats;

(B) an ability to coordinate the implementation of priority projects that support the goals and national priorities set by the Board that are within the Partnership boundary;

(C) a self-governance structure that supports the implementation of strategic priorities for fish habitat;

(D) the ability to develop local and regional relationships with a broad range of entities to further strategic priorities for fish and fish habitat;

(E) a strategic plan that details required investments for fish habitat conservation that addresses the strategic fish habitat priorities of the Partnership and supports and meets the strategic priorities of the Board;

(F) the ability to develop and implement fish habitat conservation projects that address strategic priorities of the Partnership and the Board; and

(G) the ability to develop fish habitat conservation priorities based on sound science and data, the ability to measure the effectiveness of fish habitat projects of the Partnership, and a clear plan as to how Partnership science and data components will be integrated with the overall Board science and data effort.

(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS.—The Board may recommend to Congress for designation an application for a Partnership submitted under subsection (c) if the Board determines that the applicant—

(1) meets the criteria described in subsection (c)(2);

(2) identifies representatives to provide support and technical assistance to the Partnership from a diverse group of public and private partners, which may include State or local governments, nonprofit entities, Indian Tribes, and private individuals, that are focused on conservation of fish habitats to achieve results across jurisdictional boundaries on public and private land;

(3) is organized to promote the health of important fish species and important fish habitats, including reservoirs, natural lakes, coastal and marine environments, coral reefs, and estuaries;

(4) identifies strategic fish and fish habitat priorities for the Partnership area in the form of geographical focus areas or key stressors or impairments to facilitate strategic planning and decision making;

(5) is able to address issues and priorities on a nationally significant scale;

(6) includes a governance structure that—

(A) reflects the range of all partners; and

(B) promotes joint strategic planning and decision making by the applicant;

(7) demonstrates completion of, or significant progress toward the development of, a strategic plan to address declines in fish populations, rather than simply treating symptoms, in accordance with the goals and national priorities established by the Board; and

(8) promotes collaboration in developing a strategic vision and implementation program that is scientifically sound and achievable.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1 of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act and each February 1 thereafter, the Board shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report, to be entitled “Report to Congress on Future Fish Habitat Partnerships and Modifications”, that—

(A) identifies each entity that—

(i) meets the requirements described in subsection (d); and

(ii) the Board recommends to Congress for designation as a Partnership;

(B) describes any proposed modifications to a Partnership previously designated by Congress under subsection (f);

(C) with respect to each entity recommended for designation as a Partnership, describes, to the maximum extent practicable—

(i) the purpose of the recommended Partnership; and

(ii) how the recommended Partnership fulfills the requirements described in subsection (d).

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY; NOTIFICATION.—The Board shall—

(A) make the report publicly available, including on the internet; and

(B) provide to the appropriate congressional committees and the State agency of any State included in a recommended Partnership area written notification of the public availability of the report.

(f) DESIGNATION OR MODIFICATION OF PARTNERSHIP.—Congress shall have the exclusive authority to designate or modify a Partnership.

(g) EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) DESIGNATION REVIEW.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, any partnership receiving Federal funds as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be subject to a designation review by Con-

gress in which Congress shall have the opportunity to designate the partnership under subsection (f).

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDS.—A partnership referred to in paragraph (1) that Congress does not designate as described in that paragraph shall be ineligible to receive Federal funds under this title.

SEC. 205. FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.

(a) SUBMISSION TO BOARD.—Not later than March 31 of each year, each Partnership shall submit to the Board a list of priority fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Partnership for annual funding under this title.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS BY BOARD.—Not later than July 1 of each year, the Board shall submit to the Secretary a priority list of fish habitat conservation projects that includes a description, including estimated costs, of each project that the Board recommends that the Secretary approve and fund under this title for the following fiscal year.

(c) CRITERIA FOR PROJECT SELECTION.—The Board shall select each fish habitat conservation project recommended to the Secretary under subsection (b) after taking into consideration, at a minimum, the following information:

(1) A recommendation of the Partnership that is, or will be, participating actively in implementing the fish habitat conservation project.

(2) The capabilities and experience of project proponents to implement successfully the proposed project.

(3) The extent to which the fish habitat conservation project—

(A) fulfills a local or regional priority that is directly linked to the strategic plan of the Partnership and is consistent with the purpose of this title;

(B) addresses the national priorities established by the Board;

(C) is supported by the findings of the habitat assessment of the Partnership or the Board, and aligns or is compatible with other conservation plans;

(D) identifies appropriate monitoring and evaluation measures and criteria that are compatible with national measures;

(E) provides a well-defined budget linked to deliverables and outcomes;

(F) leverages other funds to implement the project;

(G) addresses the causes and processes behind the decline of fish or fish habitats; and

(H) includes an outreach or education component that includes the local or regional community.

(4) The availability of sufficient non-Federal funds to match Federal contributions for the fish habitat conservation project, as required by subsection (e).

(5) The extent to which the fish habitat conservation project—

(A) will increase fish populations in a manner that leads to recreational fishing opportunities for the public;

(B) will be carried out through a cooperative agreement among Federal, State, and local governments, Indian Tribes, and private entities;

(C) increases public access to land or water for fish and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities;

(D) advances the conservation of fish and wildlife species that have been identified by a State agency as species of greatest conservation need;

(E) where appropriate, advances the conservation of fish and fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and other relevant Federal law and State wildlife action plans; and

(F) promotes strong and healthy fish habitats so that desired biological communities are able to persist and adapt.

(6) The substantiality of the character and design of the fish habitat conservation project.

(d) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATION.—No fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless the fish habitat conservation project includes an evaluation plan designed using applicable Board guidance—

(A) to appropriately assess the biological, ecological, or other results of the habitat protection, restoration, or enhancement activities carried out using the assistance;

(B) to reflect appropriate changes to the fish habitat conservation project if the assessment substantiates that the fish habitat conservation project objectives are not being met;

(C) to identify improvements to existing fish populations, recreational fishing opportunities, and the overall economic benefits for the local community of the fish habitat conservation project; and

(D) to require the submission to the Board of a report describing the findings of the assessment.

(2) ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A State, local government, or other non-Federal entity is eligible to receive funds for the acquisition of real property from willing sellers under this title if the acquisition ensures—

(i) public access for fish and wildlife-dependent recreation; or

(ii) a scientifically based, direct enhancement to the health of fish and fish populations, as determined by the Board.

(B) STATE AGENCY APPROVAL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—All real property interest acquisition projects funded under this title must be approved by the State agency in the State in which the project is occurring.

(ii) PROHIBITION.—The Board may not recommend, and the Secretary may not provide any funding for, any real property interest acquisition that has not been approved by the State agency.

(C) ASSESSMENT OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—The Board may not recommend, and the Secretary may not provide any funding under this title for, any real property interest acquisition unless the Partnership that recommended the project has conducted a project assessment, submitted with the funding request and approved by the Board, to demonstrate all other Federal, State, and local authorities for the acquisition of real property have been exhausted.

(D) RESTRICTIONS.—A real property interest may not be acquired pursuant to a fish habitat conservation project by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity conducted with funds provided under this title, unless—

(i) the owner of the real property authorizes the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity to acquire the real property; and

(ii) the Secretary and the Board determine that the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity would benefit from undertaking the management of the real property being acquired because that is in accordance with the goals of a Partnership.

(e) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (4), no fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless at least 50 percent of the cost of the fish habitat conservation project will be funded with non-Federal funds.

(2) **NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—Such non-Federal share of the cost of a fish habitat conservation project—

(A) may not be derived from another Federal grant program; and

(B) may include in-kind contributions and cash.

(3) **SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIAN TRIBES.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1) or any other provision of law, any funds made available to an Indian Tribe pursuant to this title may be considered to be non-Federal funds for the purpose of paragraph (1).

(4) **WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce with respect to marine or estuarine projects, may waive the application of paragraph (2)(A) with respect to a State or an Indian Tribe, or otherwise reduce the portion of the non-Federal share of the cost of an activity required to be paid by a State or an Indian Tribe under paragraph (1), if the Secretary determines that the State or Indian Tribe does not have sufficient funds not derived from another Federal grant program to pay such non-Federal share, or portion of the non-Federal share, without the use of loans.

(f) **APPROVAL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the recommended priority list of fish habitat conservation projects under subsection (b), and subject to subsection (d) and based, to the maximum extent practicable, on the criteria described in subsection (c), the Secretary, after consulting with the Secretary of Commerce on marine or estuarine projects, shall approve or reject any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board.

(2) **FUNDING.**—If the Secretary approves a fish habitat conservation project under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall use amounts made available to carry out this title to provide funds to carry out the fish habitat conservation project.

(3) **NOTIFICATION.**—If the Secretary rejects under paragraph (1) any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board, not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the recommendation, the Secretary shall provide to the Board, the appropriate Partnership, and the appropriate congressional committees a written statement of the reasons that the Secretary rejected the fish habitat conservation project.

SEC. 206. TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator, the Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator, and the Director of the United States Geological Survey, in coordination with the Forest Service and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, may provide scientific and technical assistance to Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

(b) **INCLUSIONS.**—Scientific and technical assistance provided under subsection (a) may include—

(1) providing technical and scientific assistance to States, Indian Tribes, regions, local communities, and nongovernmental organizations in the development and implementation of Partnerships;

(2) providing technical and scientific assistance to Partnerships for habitat assessment, strategic planning, and prioritization;

(3) supporting the development and implementation of fish habitat conservation projects that are identified as high priorities by Partnerships and the Board;

(4) supporting and providing recommendations regarding the development of science-based monitoring and assessment approaches for implementation through Partnerships;

(5) supporting and providing recommendations for a national fish habitat assessment;

(6) ensuring the availability of experts to assist in conducting scientifically based evaluation and reporting of the results of fish habitat conservation projects; and

(7) providing resources to secure State agency scientific and technical assistance to support Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

SEC. 207. COORDINATION WITH STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.

The Secretary shall provide a notice to, and cooperate with, the appropriate State agency or Tribal agency, as applicable, of each State and Indian Tribe within the boundaries of which an activity is planned to be carried out pursuant to this title, including notification, by not later than 30 days before the date on which the activity is implemented.

SEC. 208. INTERAGENCY OPERATIONAL PLAN.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director, in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator, the Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies (including, at a minimum, those agencies represented on the Board) shall develop an interagency operational plan that describes—

(1) the functional, operational, technical, scientific, and general staff, administrative, and material needs for the implementation of this title; and

(2) any interagency agreements between or among Federal departments and agencies to address those needs.

SEC. 209. ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING.

(a) **REPORTING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the progress of this title.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an estimate of the number of acres, stream miles, or acre-feet, or other suitable measures of fish habitat, that was maintained or improved by Partnerships under this title during the 5-year period ending on the date of submission of the report;

(B) a description of the public access to fish habitats established or improved under this title during that 5-year period;

(C) a description of the improved opportunities for public recreational fishing achieved under this title; and

(D) an assessment of the status of fish habitat conservation projects carried out with funds provided under this title during that period, disaggregated by year, including—

(i) a description of the fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Board under section 205(b);

(ii) a description of each fish habitat conservation project approved by the Secretary under section 205(f), in order of priority for funding;

(iii) a justification for—

(I) the approval of each fish habitat conservation project; and

(II) the order of priority for funding of each fish habitat conservation project;

(iv) a justification for any rejection of a fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under section 205(b) that was based on a factor other than the criteria described in section 205(c); and

(v) an accounting of expenditures by Federal, State, or local governments, Indian Tribes, or other entities to carry out fish habitat conservation projects under this title.

(b) **STATUS AND TRENDS REPORT.**—Not later than December 31, 2021, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) a status of all Partnerships designated under this title;

(2) a description of the status of fish habitats in the United States as identified by designated Partnerships; and

(3) enhancements or reductions in public access as a result of—

(A) the activities of the Partnerships; or

(B) any other activities carried out pursuant to this title.

SEC. 210. EFFECT OF THIS TITLE.

(a) **WATER RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this title—

(1) establishes any express or implied reserved water right in the United States for any purpose;

(2) affects any water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water; or

(4) affects any Federal or State law in existence on the date of enactment of the Act regarding water quality or water quantity.

(b) **AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE WATER RIGHTS OR RIGHTS TO PROPERTY.**—Only a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity may acquire, under State law, water rights or rights to property with funds made available through section 212.

(c) **STATE AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this title—

(1) affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of a State to manage, control, or regulate fish and wildlife under the laws and regulations of the State; or

(2) authorizes the Secretary to control or regulate within a State the fishing or hunting of fish and wildlife.

(d) **EFFECT ON INDIAN TRIBES.**—Nothing in this title abrogates, abridges, affects, modifies, supersedes, or alters any right of an Indian Tribe recognized by treaty or any other means, including—

(1) an agreement between the Indian Tribe and the United States;

(2) Federal law (including regulations);

(3) an Executive order; or

(4) a judicial decree.

(e) **ADJUDICATION OF WATER RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this title diminishes or affects the ability of the Secretary to join an adjudication of rights to the use of water pursuant to subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 208 of the Departments of State, Justice, Commerce, and The Judiciary Appropriation Act, 1953 (43 U.S.C. 666).

(f) **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this title affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the Department of Commerce to manage, control, or regulate fish or fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(g) **EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORITIES.**—

(1) **PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.**—Nothing in this title permits the use of funds made available to carry out this title to acquire real property or a real property interest without the written consent of each owner of the real property or real property interest, respectively.

(2) **MITIGATION.**—Nothing in this title authorizes the use of funds made available to carry out this title for fish and wildlife mitigation purposes under—

(A) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(B) the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.);

(C) the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662; 100 Stat. 4082); or
(D) any other Federal law or court settlement.

(3) CLEAN WATER ACT.—Nothing in this title affects any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), including any definition in that Act.

SEC. 211. NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to—

- (1) the Board; or
- (2) any Partnership.

SEC. 212. FUNDING.

(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$7,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to provide funds for fish habitat conservation projects approved under section 205(f), of which 5 percent is authorized only for projects carried out by Indian Tribes.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING EXPENSES.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 an amount equal to 5 percent of the amount appropriated for the applicable fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1)—

- (A) for administrative and planning expenses under this title; and
- (B) to carry out section 209.

(3) TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.—There is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out, and provide technical and scientific assistance under, section 206—

(A) \$400,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(B) \$400,000 to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator for use by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(C) \$400,000 to the Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator for use by the Environmental Protection Agency;

(D) \$400,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Geological Survey; and

(E) \$400,000 to the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, for use by the Forest Service.

(b) AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS.—The Secretary may—

(1) on the recommendation of the Board, and notwithstanding sections 6304 and 6305 of title 31, United States Code, and the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 106-107), enter into a grant agreement, cooperative agreement, or contract with a Partnership or other entity to provide funds authorized by this title for a fish habitat conservation project or restoration or enhancement project;

(2) apply for, accept, and, subject to the availability of appropriations, use a grant from any individual or entity to carry out the purposes of this title; and

(3) subject to the availability of appropriations, make funds authorized by this Act available to any Federal department or agency for use by that department or agency to provide grants for any fish habitat protection project, restoration project, or enhancement project that the Secretary determines to be consistent with this title.

(c) DONATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may—

(A) enter into an agreement with any organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code to solicit private donations to carry out the purposes of this title; and

(B) accept donations of funds, property, and services to carry out the purposes of this title.

(2) TREATMENT.—A donation accepted under this title—

(A) shall be considered to be a gift or bequest to, or otherwise for the use of, the United States; and

(B) may be—

- (i) used directly by the Secretary; or
- (ii) provided to another Federal department or agency through an interagency agreement.

SEC. 213. PROHIBITION AGAINST IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATORY AUTHORITY BY FEDERAL AGENCIES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS.

Any Partnership designated under this title—

(1) shall be for the sole purpose of promoting fish conservation; and

(2) shall not be used to implement any regulatory authority of any Federal agency.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. STUDY TO REVIEW CONSERVATION FACTORS.

(a) DEFINITION OF SECRETARIES.—In this section, the term “Secretaries” means—

- (1) the Secretary of Agriculture;
- (2) the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service; and
- (3) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) STUDY.—To assess factors affecting successful conservation activities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Secretaries shall carry out a study—

(1)(A) to review any factors that threaten or endanger a species, such as wildlife disease, for which a listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) would not contribute to the conservation of the species; and

(B) to identify additional conservation measures that can be taken to protect and conserve a species described in subparagraph (A);

(2) to review any barriers to—

- (A) the delivery of Federal, State, local, or private funds for such conservation activities, including statutory or regulatory impediments, staffing needs, and other relevant considerations; or
- (B) the implementation of conservation agreements, plans, or other cooperative agreements, including agreements focused on voluntary activities, multispecies efforts, and other relevant considerations;

(3) to review factors that impact the ability of the Federal Government to successfully implement the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(4) to develop recommendations regarding methods to address barriers identified under paragraph (2), if any;

(5) to review determinations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) in which a species is determined to be recovered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, but remains listed under that Act, including—

(A) an explanation of the factors preventing a delisting or downlisting of the species; and

(B) recommendations regarding methods to address the factors described in subparagraph (A); and

(6) to review any determinations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) in which a species has been iden-

tified as needing listing or uplisting under that Act but remains unlisted or listed as a threatened species, respectively, including—

(A) an explanation of the factors preventing a listing or uplisting of the species; and

(B) recommendations regarding methods to address the factors described in subparagraph (A).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and make publicly available a report describing the results of the study under subsection (b).

SEC. 302. STUDY AND REPORT ON EXPENDITURES.

(a) REPORTS ON EXPENDITURES.—

(1) FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—At the determination of the Comptroller General of the United States (referred to in this section as the “Comptroller General”), to facilitate the preparation of the reports from the Comptroller General under paragraph (2), the head of each Federal department and agency shall submit to the Comptroller General data and other relevant information that describes the amounts expended or disbursed (including through loans, loan guarantees, grants, or any other financing mechanism) by the department or agency as a direct result of any provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (including any regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) during—

(i) with respect to the first report under paragraph (2), the 3 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report; and

(ii) with respect to the second report under paragraph (2), the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Data and other relevant information submitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe, with respect to the applicable amounts—

(i) the programmatic office of the department or agency on behalf of which each amount was expended or disbursed;

(ii) the provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (or regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) pursuant to which each amount was expended or disbursed; and

(iii) the project or activity carried out using each amount, in detail sufficient to reflect the breadth, scope, and purpose of the project or activity.

(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years and 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(A) the aggregate amount expended or disbursed by all Federal departments and agencies as a direct result of any provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (including any regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) during—

(i) with respect to the first report, the 3 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report; and

(ii) with respect to the second report, the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report;

(B) the provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (or regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) pursuant to which each such amount was expended or disbursed; and

(C) with respect to each relevant department or agency—

(i) the total amount expended or disbursed by the department or agency as described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) the information described in clauses (i) through (iii) of paragraph (1)(B).

(b) REPORT ON CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.—

(1) FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—At the determination of the Comptroller General, to facilitate the preparation of the report under paragraph (2), the head of each Federal department and agency shall submit to the Comptroller General data and other relevant information that describes the conservation activities by the Federal department or agency as a direct result of any provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (including any regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) during—

(A) with respect to the first report under paragraph (2), the 3 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report; and

(B) with respect to the second report under paragraph (2), the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report.

(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years and 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that—

(A) describes the conservation activities by all Federal departments and agencies for species listed as a threatened species or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as reported under paragraph (1), during—

(i) with respect to the first report, the 3 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report; and

(ii) with respect to the second report, the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report;

(B) is organized into categories with respect to whether a recovery plan for a species has been established;

(C) includes conservation outcomes associated with the conservation activities; and

(D) as applicable, describes the conservation activities that required interaction between Federal agencies and between Federal agencies and State and Tribal agencies and units of local government pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

SEC. 303. USE OF VALUE OF LAND FOR COST SHARING.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 13 as section 14; and

(2) by inserting after section 12 the following:

“SEC. 13. VALUE OF LAND.

“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any institution eligible to receive Federal funds under the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) shall be allowed to use the value of any land owned by the institution as an in-kind match to satisfy any cost sharing requirement under this Act.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3051, America's Conservation Enhancement Act.

This bill is an example of Democrats and Republicans coming together to pass legislation to benefit nature, fishermen, hunters, and nature enthusiasts of all kinds.

Mr. Speaker, I thank and commend my colleagues from both sides of the aisle and the Hill for their hard work on this very important piece of legislation.

I am greatly appreciative of Representative MIKE THOMPSON for his leadership in the House and for Senators BARRASSO and CARPER for getting this package through the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I also commend the numerous bipartisan Members of Congress for their critical contributions to this legislation.

The ACE Act could not come at a more necessary time, as we are reckoning with the tragic and dangerous impacts of the climate crisis. Scientists around the world are sounding the alarm that we are on the cusp of an extinction crisis caused by human impacts. The ACE Act protects and enhances wildlife and habitat throughout the country, and reduces conflicts between wildlife, humans, and livestock.

According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, three-quarters of the terrestrial environment and about two-thirds of the marine environment have been significantly altered by human actions.

Protecting habitat is one of the most important things we can do for biodiversity and climate resiliency, and this bill accomplishes that in several ways.

It conserves wetlands by reauthorizing the popular and successful North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

It protects the largest estuary in the country, the Chesapeake Bay, by creating and reauthorizing several programs that restore the Bay and promote its resilience to climate change.

It also authorizes an innovative program called the National Fish Habitat Partnership, which leverages public-private partnerships to enhance fish habitat across the country, benefiting not only the fish, but the strong tradition of angling in this country.

Hunters, who are some of our best conservationists in this country, will be pleased to hear that this legislation contains provisions to combat chronic wasting disease, or CWD, a fatal disease that impacts animals like deer, elk, and moose, and which is spreading and has now been found in 26 States across this country.

Invasive species are also a growing threat to biodiversity throughout the United States, and they are managed by a multitude of agencies. Crucially, this bill addresses this issue by requiring Federal agencies to consult with one another and with stakeholders when developing strategic plans for invasive species.

The ACE Act also contains a bipartisan provision that I worked on with my colleague, Congressman DON YOUNG, for a long-term reauthorization of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This strong, bipartisan program has a track record of success, and will continue to play a vital role in safeguarding our environmental legacy.

Finally, the ACE Act addresses conflicts between wildlife, livestock, and humans. The legislation creates a prize competition to spur innovations that reduce conflicts between humans and predator species. It also addresses losses of livestock due to depredation by federally-protected species.

With the ever-encroaching human footprint, there will inevitably be more conflicts between us and wildlife, and these provisions offer a responsible pathway forward.

During the pandemic, so many Americans have found respite in nature. Whether you are a hiker, an angler, a hunter, a bird-watcher, or just a wildlife enthusiast, it is so important that we protect the iconic wildlife and habitat across our Nation. Particularly in the face of the climate crisis, the time to act is now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this legislation to protect species and habitat.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 3051, America's Conservation Enhancement Act.

It is an incredible honor to manage this suspension debate for the ACE Act, arguably one of the most important pieces of environmental legislation for the Chesapeake Bay, national wetlands, and fish habitat in years.

This bipartisan package of conservation and resource protection policies will have tremendous benefits for both our environment and individuals for years to come.

The ACE Act is a once-in-a-generation advancement to clean up the Chesapeake Bay and protect and conserve natural resources across America. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure, and the ACE Act provides additional resources and extends critical conservation programs that preserve wetlands, reduce pollution, and increase recreational opportunities both in the Commonwealth of Virginia and across our great United States.

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Title I of this bill includes important reauthorizations for programs such as

the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998.

These are all very important programs, not only to the folks back home in my district, but to all Americans who wish to have clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and an overall healthier environment where our fish and wildlife populations are sustainable and thriving.

This bill also includes initiatives important to sportsmen, such as the establishment of a chronic wasting disease task force with the goal of researching this dangerous threat to white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk populations, and moose populations.

This bill also has some practical solutions to offer farmers and ranchers vital tools to help manage their herds and protect them from predation.

Title II is a provision I am especially proud of and glad that we are advancing through the House and on to the President's desk for his signature. This includes the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships provision, a bill that I championed. This title establishes a national fish habitat board that supports a successful public-private partnership to restore fish habitat.

I would like to thank the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee, ROB BISHOP, and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, TOM MCCLINTOCK.

I would also like to thank all of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for their ceaseless efforts and commitment to making sure we do everything we can to conserve, protect, and enhance the resources that we are in charge of taking care of.

I look forward to continuing to advance other important provisions, but this bill, hopefully, will be on its way to the President's desk.

As co-chair of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force, I would specifically like to acknowledge my friends and colleagues in the bay delegation who have labored so hard for so long to help clean up our great Chesapeake Bay.

Representative BOBBY SCOTT, Representative JOHN SARBANES, and Representative ANDY HARRIS and I are proud to see the passage of these important provisions to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the American Conservation Enhancement Act does much to advance our bipartisan goals of conserving fish and wildlife populations and preserving the environment for the enjoyment of untold future generations of Americans.

The ACE Act will also give Americans increased opportunities to get out and enjoy the natural beauty and wildlife in our country, from the Gulf Coast to the Great Lakes, from Puget Sound to the Chesapeake Bay.

I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA).

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of America's Conservation Enhancement Act and the inclusion of my bill, the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act.

As my colleague, Mrs. DINGELL, said, this is truly an example of a bipartisan bill where we have been able to work across the aisle and across the bay, and I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. WITTMAN from Virginia, as well for his strong cooperation on this program.

The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure, and its health is critical to the environmental and economic well-being of coastal Virginia and beyond. The Chesapeake Bay generates \$33 billion in economic value annually and is home to spectacular natural beauty and ecological diversity.

The EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program coordinates regional conservation efforts and supports the work of States in meeting their restoration commitments under the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Funding for the bay program goes directly to localities to improve conservation efforts. However, Congress has not reauthorized this program since 2005.

By passing the ACE Act and, simultaneously, my bill, Congress will reaffirm that all States in the watershed and the EPA must work together to achieve these restoration goals. This includes ensuring that all States have plans in place enabling them to achieve these goals.

I want to thank my colleagues in the House and the Senate who worked hard to secure the passage of this bill.

Again, I would like to thank Mr. WITTMAN, my colleague, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT from Virginia, as well as Mr. SARBANES from Maryland for being initial cosponsors on this bill. I urge all Members to support America's Conservation Enhancement Act.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to reflect upon the words of Representative LURIA. This really is a true bipartisan bill.

I would like to thank not just the colleagues on the other side of the aisle but those colleagues from all of our States, Representative LURIA, the rest of the Virginia delegation. As I talked about the folks from the Chesapeake Bay delegation, everybody has an interest in this bill. It is an extraordinary effort across many, many different areas where there is common interest, and it is a great example of what we can get done when we are willing to focus on things we have in common rather than those places where we have differences.

The one thing we do have in common is the great treasures that have been bestowed upon us by our Creator and our obligation, as humanity, to protect

and to enhance those resources, not only now, but for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3051, America's Conservation Enhancement, or ACE, Act.

I just want to thank Congressman WITTMAN for all his work. We partnered together, as he indicated, on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force with Congressman HARRIS and Congressman SCOTT.

I want to salute the efforts of Congresswoman LURIA in introducing and authoring the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act, which I was proud to cosponsor.

This is an exciting day. This bill has taken a winding road, as these things do. But we are close to the finish line here, and we look forward to passage of the bill. It is bipartisan. It is bicameral.

We conserve and protect fish and wildlife habitat, support outdoor recreation, and combat invasive species, as we have heard. It includes several bipartisan provisions that will protect the long-term health of the Chesapeake Bay, specifically, as I indicated, two bills: one, the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act, and another one, the Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense Act, or Chesapeake WILD Act, which would establish a grant program to bolster habitat restoration and protection throughout the watershed.

It also includes a bill I was proud to introduce, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act, which would expand recreational opportunities for millions of Marylanders and bay watershed residents across the region.

It is comprehensive. It will significantly boost the health of the bay and ensure that it remains an environmental treasure and an economic driver for years to come.

As Congressman WITTMAN said, we have worked together on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force, and through that task force, we have pulled together real bipartisan support for this effort.

As the largest estuary in the U.S., the Chesapeake Bay is an important ecosystem, a model for restoration efforts throughout the country. That is, in large part, due to our successful bipartisan work at the Federal, State, and local levels.

I would like to thank Chair GRIJALVA, our House leadership, and their staffs for their work to negotiate a bipartisan and bicameral environmental conservation package.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important legislation so that our Nation's natural habitats and scenic landscapes, like the Chesapeake Bay, can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Washington, I promised that I would help to champion legislation that would make this planet a better place for future generations, and that is why I am proud the ACE Act will be signed into law.

The ACE Act is a bipartisan sportsmen's package that ensures that we leave this planet in better shape than we found it.

The ACE Act serves as a thank-you to the outdoor enthusiasts of South Carolina's First District, and the millions like them across the United States, by providing reauthorizations for vital conservation programs. The Lowcountry's hunters and anglers are some of the strongest stewards of our natural resources, and this bill is a promise that this partnership will continue for generations.

I want to thank Representative MIKE THOMPSON for his leadership. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get the ACE Act past the House and signed into law.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, and I will close quickly.

I would like to thank my colleague, Representative DINGELL, for all of her efforts.

Obviously, the Natural Resources Committee has a lot of input on this. But, again, this is a great example of what we can all do when we look at those things that we have in common.

We have been bestowed these fantastic natural resources, gifts from our Creator. We have an obligation to protect them. And what we see today is that common idea of that obligation and how we fulfill that obligation. Today really is one of those days where we should remember historically about all the different elements that have come together.

We know it is an arduous path for many of these pieces of legislation, but today should really be a reminder of what we can do when we look at those things we have in common, when we look at our responsibilities and obligations to this Nation and to the treasures that we have here before us.

Today is indeed a great day. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. It truly is an indication of what makes this Nation great.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The ACE Act is the culmination of months of bipartisan work between the House, the Senate, committee staff, and key stakeholders.

I want to thank my colleague, Mr. WITTMAN, who is managing this bill today, and all of my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee. But so many people have worked to get us

here, and for me, it is almost a special moment because decades of work have resulted—today is the opening of the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, which will benefit from this legislation. It makes me kind of emotional today.

This passage will authorize critical funding for America's fish and wildlife habitat. It is an example of what happens when we all come together to protect our natural resources.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a co-chair of the Chesapeake Watershed Task Force in support of the Chesapeake Bay Provisions within America's Conservation Enhancement Act. I am proud to represent Virginia's 3rd Congressional District, located near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay which President Reagan declared a "national treasure" in 1984, a declaration President Obama echoed in 2009. Unfortunately, President Trump has not supported the bipartisan effort to restore the Bay, proposing to slash funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program, a misguided step that I am proud to have worked with my colleagues across the aisle to correct.

America's Conservation Enhancement Act represents a crucial opportunity to support the ongoing restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Under the Environmental Protection Agency's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) mandate, some progress has been made in restoring the Bay. Current increases in underwater grasses and the blue crab population indicate these efforts are working, however, more resources and continued partnership are necessary to ensure that these gains are maintained and that the Chesapeake Bay is restored. The Chesapeake Bay provisions included in this bill would make significant progress, not just in improving the health of the Bay, but also in conserving habitat and increasing access to restoration throughout its 64,000 square-mile watershed.

I am especially pleased the America's Conservation Enhancement Act includes Chesapeake WILD, a bill I introduced with Reps. WITTMAN and SARBANES, fellow co-chairs of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Taskforce, and Senator VAN HOLLEN. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is well equipped to leverage their expertise in wildlife and habitat conservation beyond their reserves and throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. My bill fosters such partnerships by creating a grant program for on the ground restoration efforts to be carried out by the FWS. In addition to conserving fish and wildlife habitat; increasing access to recreation; mitigating flooding; and improving drinking water quality, the grant program this bill creates will also contribute to the precedent-setting effort to conserve the Chesapeake Bay.

America's Conservation Enhancement Act also includes a bill led by Rep. SARBANES and Sen. CARDIN that would reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails grant program. The pandemic has reminded many of the many benefits of outdoor recreation yet, for far too many, parks, trails, beaches, and other recreational areas are largely inaccessible. The reauthorization of this grant program will help remedy that by in-

creasing access to recreation in the Bay Watershed and I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of the bill.

America's Conservation Enhancement Act also includes critical legislation, led by my colleagues Rep. LURIA and Sen. CARDIN, to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program. In 1978, my first year as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, I was part of a joint Virginia-Maryland legislative advisory commission focused on determining what actions were necessary to address Bay issues. We concluded that restoring the Bay would require more than just Virginia and Maryland, but rather, the collaboration of the entire watershed. That remains true today and the level of collaboration required is made possible by the Chesapeake Bay Program.

I am also proud to have introduced this legislation with my colleagues which would also authorize an incremental increase in spending for the Bay Program, reaching \$92 million annually by 2025. Strong funding for the Bay Program leading up to 2025 is essential because that is the date by which the EPA, along with the six Bay watershed states and the District of Columbia have committed to making the Bay fishable and swimmable.

Passage of America's Conservation Enhancement Act is a major step towards meeting that agreement. As critical as these measures are to the ecological and economic health of the region, we also recognize that pollution knows no boundaries. As Wendell Berry, the great poet, philosopher, and farmer wrote, we all ought to "do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you." The restoration this bill supports throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed does more than just improve the health of the Bay—it enhances carbon sequestration, protects wildlife, improves the quality of water entering the Atlantic, and sets an important precedent for the restoration of other large watersheds and multi-jurisdictional cooperative environmental agreements.

I thank the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Energy and Commerce for their work on this essential legislation and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and thank the Chairman for his tireless dedication to our natural resources and to supporting efforts to get folks outside to enjoy our National treasures.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear just how desperately our communities need access to the outdoors for their emotional and physical well-being.

The provisions included in America's Conservation Enhancement Act will do just that by increasing access to public lands and reauthorizing wildlife conservation programs, so our hunters, anglers, and birdwatchers can continue doing what they love.

The ACE Act will create more opportunities for the people in America to enjoy the outdoors, while providing critical financial relief to the businesses around these public lands.

This legislation is a win for our environment, our economy, and for our sportsmen and women who will be able to access these lands for generations to come.

As a longtime outdoorsman, I am proud of this legislation and urge my colleagues to vote yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLEAVER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from

Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3051.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECT ENHANCEMENT OF SNAPPER CONSERVATION AND THE ECONOMY THROUGH NOVEL DEVICES ACT OF 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5126) to require individuals fishing for Gulf reef fish to use certain descending devices, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5126

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 “Direct Enhancement of Snapper Conservation and the Economy through Novel Devices Act of 2020” or the “DESCEND Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that commercial and recreational fishermen (which, for the purpose of this Act shall include charter fishing) for Gulf reef fish are expected to use a venting tool or a descending device required for possession under section 3 when releasing fish that are exhibiting signs of barotrauma. The Secretary of Commerce (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”), in coordination with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, should develop and disseminate to fishermen education and outreach materials related to proper use of venting tools and descending devices, and strongly encourage their use by commercial and recreational fishermen when releasing fish that are exhibiting signs of barotrauma.

SEC. 3. REQUIRED POSSESSION OF DESCENDING DEVICES.

(a) **REQUIRED GEAR IN THE GULF REEF FISH FISHERY.**—Title III of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 321. REQUIRED POSSESSION OF DESCENDING DEVICES.

“(a) **REQUIRE GEAR IN THE GULF REEF FISH FISHERY.**—It shall be unlawful for a person on board a commercial or recreational vessel to fish for Gulf reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone without possessing on board the vessel a venting tool or a descending device that is rigged and ready for use while fishing is occurring.

“(b) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—No provision of this section shall be interpreted to affect any program or activity carried out by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council established by the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (33 U.S.C. 1321 note), or any project contained in an approved Restoration Plan developed by any Natural Resources Damage Assessment Trustee Implementation Group to reduce post-release mortality from barotrauma in Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Recreational Fisheries.

“(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **DESCENDING DEVICE.**—The term ‘descending device’ means an instrument that—

“(A) will release fish at a depth sufficient for the fish to be able to recover from the effects of barotrauma;

“(B) is a weighted hook, lip clamp, or box that will hold the fish while it is lowered to depth, or another device determined to be appropriate by the Secretary; and

“(C) is capable of—

“(i) releasing the fish automatically;

“(ii) releasing the fish by actions of the operator of the device; or

“(iii) allowing the fish to escape on its own.

“(2) **VENTING TOOL.**—The term ‘venting tool’ has the meaning given to it by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

“(3) **GULF REEF FISH.**—The term ‘Gulf reef fish’ means any fish chosen by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council that is in the reef fishery management plan for the purposes of this Act.”.

(b) **CIVIL PENALTIES.**—Section 308(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1858(a)) is amended by inserting “or section 321” after “section 307”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Title III of the table of contents of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.) is amended by striking the item relating to section 305 and all that follows through the end of the items relating to such title and inserting the following:

“Sec. 305. Other requirements and authority.

“Sec. 306. State jurisdiction.

“Sec. 307. Prohibited acts.

“Sec. 308. Civil penalties and permit sanctions.

“Sec. 309. Criminal offenses.

“Sec. 310. Civil forfeitures.

“Sec. 311. Enforcement.

“Sec. 312. Transition to sustainable fisheries.

“Sec. 313. North Pacific fisheries conservation.

“Sec. 314. Northwest Atlantic Ocean fisheries reinvestment program.

“Sec. 315. Regional Coastal Disaster Assistance, Transition, and Recovery Program.

“Sec. 316. Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program.

“Sec. 317. Shark Feeding.

“Sec. 318. Cooperative Research and Management Program.

“Sec. 319. Herring Study.

“Sec. 320. Restoration Study.

“Sec. 321. Required possession of descending devices.”.

(e) **SUNSET.**—Five years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the table of contents, by striking the item relating to section 321;

(2) in section 308(a), by striking “or section 321”; and

(3) by striking section 321.

SEC. 4. IMPROVING DISCARD MORTALITY DATA.

(a) **AGREEMENT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study and produce a report on discard mortality in the Gulf of Mexico reef fish fisheries. The study shall include—

(1) assessment of gaps and biases in reporting of discards and associated discard mortality;

(2) assessment of uncertainty and likely impacts of such uncertainty in discard mortality;

(3) assessment of the effectiveness and usage rates of barotrauma-reducing devices;

(4) recommendations for future research priorities; and

(5) recommendations for standardized reporting and quantification of discards in the same metric as landings for fisheries under the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan.

(b) **DEADLINES.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National Academy of Sciences shall complete the study required under subsection (a) and transmit the final report to the Secretary. Not later than 3 months after receiving the study and report in accordance with this subsection, the Secretary shall submit the study and report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(c) **PLAN.**—Not later than 1 year after the Secretary receives the study and report required under subsection (a), Secretary and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council shall develop—

(1) guidance for minimum standards for quantifying and reporting discards and associated mortality in the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan; and

(2) a plan to assess and monitor the effectiveness and usage of barotrauma-reducing devices and the impact on discard mortality rates in Gulf of Mexico reef fish fisheries.

(d) **FOLLOW-UP REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after developing minimum standards and developing the assessment and monitoring plan under subsection (c), the Secretary shall provide a detailed report on implementation to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5126, the creatively and aptly named Direct Enhancement of Snapper Conservation and the Economy Through Novel Devices Act, or the DESCEND Act.

This bill requires every commercial and recreational fisherman to possess a venting tool or a descending device