

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2293

AN ACT

To require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Cormorant Relief Act
3 of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. REGULATIONS RELATING TO TAKING OF DOUBLE-**
5 **CRESTED CORMORANTS AT AQUACULTURE**
6 **FACILITIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reissue the
8 original depredation order in accordance with subsection
9 (b).

10 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The depredation order re-
11 issued under subsection (a) shall be the same as the origi-
12 nal depredation order, except that the depredation order
13 reissued under subsection (a) shall—

14 (1) apply to—

15 (A) each of the States of California, Colo-
16 rado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,
17 Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsyl-
18 vania, and Wisconsin and any other State or
19 territory of the United States the Secretary de-
20 termines appropriate in addition to and in the
21 same manner as each of the States to which the
22 original depredation order applied; and

23 (B) lake managers and pond managers in
24 addition to and in the same manner as each of
25 the entities to which the original depredation
26 order applied;

1 (2) incorporate modern terminology;

2 (3) simplify the provisions contained in the
3 original depredation order related to compliance with
4 other Federal law;

5 (4) modernize the recordkeeping requirements
6 contained in the original depredation order; and

7 (5) remove the June 30, 2014, expiration date
8 contained in the original depredation order.

9 (c) RENEWAL.—Not less than once every 5 years
10 after the date on which the Secretary reissues the original
11 depredation order under subsection (a), the Secretary
12 shall renew the depredation order reissued under sub-
13 section (a).

14 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
15 may be construed to waive the obligation of the Secretary
16 to comply with the—

17 (1) National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
18 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); or

19 (2) Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703
20 et seq.).

21 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) LAKE MANAGER.—The term “lake man-
23 ager” means a person that is licensed by a State
24 regulatory agency to manage a private lake.

1 (2) ORIGINAL DEPREDATION ORDER.—The
2 term “original depredation order” means the depre-
3 dation order for double-crested cormorants at aqua-
4 culture facilities contained in section 21.47 of title
5 50, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on
6 January 1, 2016).

7 (3) POND MANAGER.—The term “pond man-
8 ager” means a person that is licensed by a State
9 regulatory agency to manage a private pond.

10 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
12 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
13 ice.

Passed the House of Representatives December 9,
2025.

Attest:

Clerk.

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