

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5471

To amend the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 to extend aquaculture programs under such Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. LALOTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 to extend aquaculture programs under such Act, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Quality
5 U.S. Aquaculture Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ACT OF 1980.**

7 The National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C.
8 2801 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 2803)—

2 (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking
3 “acquaculture” and inserting “aquaculture”;

4 (B) in subsection (d), in the matter pre-
5 ceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, not less
6 than once every 3 years,” after “periodic re-
7 views”; and

8 (C) in subsection (e)—

9 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph
10 (1), by inserting “, not less than once
11 every 3 years,” after “undertake a con-
12 tinuing assessment of aquaculture in the
13 United States”;

14 (ii) in paragraph (5), by striking
15 “and” at the end;

16 (iii) in paragraph (6), by striking the
17 period at the end and inserting a semi-
18 colon; and

19 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(7) a catalog of new and existing capital con-
22 straints, as described in the capital requirements
23 plan formulated under section 8(b), that affect the
24 development of the aquaculture industry in the
25 United States; and

1 “(8) a catalog of new and existing Federal or
2 State regulatory barriers, as described in the regu-
3 latory constraints plan formulated under section
4 9(b), to the initiation and operation of commercial
5 aquaculture ventures.”;

6 (2) in section 5 (16 U.S.C. 2804), by striking
7 subsection (d) and inserting the following:

8 “(d) AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
10 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
11 Secretary shall establish an advisory committee, to
12 be known as the Aquaculture Advisory Committee
13 (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Committee’),
14 to advise the Secretary on—

15 “(A) oversight of programs of the Depart-
16 ment and other members of the coordinating
17 group to support development of, and to ad-
18 vance, aquaculture best practices using the best
19 available science, in consultation with farmers
20 and industry partners;

21 “(B) providing technical assistance to
22 aquaculture farmers and businesses, including
23 technical assistance that pertains to shellfish,
24 algae, and land-based aquaculture systems,
25 using the best available science; and

1 “(C) any other aspects of the implementa-
2 tion of this Act.

3 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall
5 be composed of 14 members, who are not offi-
6 cers or employees of the Federal Government.

7 “(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Sec-
8 retary shall appoint the members of the Com-
9 mittee not later than 180 days after the date of
10 enactment of this section.

11 “(C) PERIOD OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT;
12 VACANCIES.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
14 vided in clause (ii), a member of the Com-
15 mittee shall be appointed for a term of 3
16 years.

17 “(ii) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Of the
18 members first appointed to the Com-
19 mittee—

20 “(I) 5 of the members, as deter-
21 mined by the Secretary, shall be ap-
22 pointed for a term of 3 years;

23 “(II) 5 of the members, as deter-
24 mined by the Secretary, shall be ap-
25 pointed for a term of 2 years; and

1 “(III) 4 of the members, as de-
2 termined by the Secretary, shall be
3 appointed for a term of 1 year.

4 “(iii) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in
5 the Committee—

6 “(I) shall not affect the powers of
7 the Committee; and

8 “(II) shall be filled as soon as
9 practicable in the same manner as the
10 original appointment.

11 “(D) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—An initial
12 appointee of the Committee may serve an addi-
13 tional consecutive term if the member is re-
14 appointed by the Secretary.

15 “(3) MEETINGS.—

16 “(A) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall
17 meet not fewer than 3 times per year.

18 “(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than
19 180 days after the date on which the members
20 are appointed under paragraph (2)(B), the
21 Committee shall hold the first meeting of the
22 Committee.

23 “(4) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

24 “(A) develop recommendations and advise
25 the Secretary on aquaculture policies, initia-

1 tives, and outreach administered by the Depart-
2 ment;

3 “(B) evaluate and review ongoing research
4 and extension activities relating to aquaculture
5 practices;

6 “(C) identify new and existing barriers to
7 successful aquaculture practices; and

8 “(D) provide additional assistance and ad-
9 vice to the Secretary as appropriate.

10 “(5) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

11 “(A) COMPENSATION.—A member of the
12 Committee shall serve without compensation.

13 “(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of
14 the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses,
15 including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-
16 cordance with section 5703 of title 5, United
17 States Code.

18 “(6) TERMINATION.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
20 graph (B), the Committee shall terminate on
21 the date that is 5 years after the date on which
22 the members are appointed under paragraph
23 (2)(B).

24 “(B) EXTENSIONS.—Before the date on
25 which the Committee terminates, the Secretary

1 may renew the Committee for 1 or more 2-year
2 periods.

3 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
4 the date of the enactment of this subsection, and each year
5 thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the coordinating
6 group and in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce
7 and the Secretary of the Interior, shall prepare on an an-
8 nual basis, and submit to Congress, a report on the status
9 of aquaculture in the United States. Such report shall con-
10 tain—

11 “(1) a description and evaluation of the actions
12 undertaken with respect to the Plan during the re-
13 porting period;

14 “(2) an explanation of any revisions made to
15 the Plan during the reporting period;

16 “(3) the results of the continuing assessment
17 established under section 4(e);

18 “(4) an evaluation of the role each Federal de-
19 partment or agency has in supporting the aqua-
20 culture industry;

21 “(5) the total amount and value of expenditures
22 of Federal departments or agencies on—

23 “(A) aquaculture purchases;

24 “(B) aquaculture promotion and outreach
25 supporting the aquaculture industry;

1 “(C) grants made to the aquaculture in-
2 dustry; and

3 “(D) grants to facilitate aquaculture re-
4 search and the subject matter of such research;

5 “(6) a summary of the activities and rec-
6 ommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Com-
7 mittee established under subsection (d);

8 “(7) a summary of the activities and rec-
9 ommendations of the coordinating group; and

10 “(8) such other comments and recommenda-
11 tions as the Secretary determines appropriate.”; and

12 (3) in section 10 (16 U.S.C. 2809), by striking
13 “2023” each place it appears in paragraphs (1), (2),
14 and (3) and inserting “2029”.

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