

GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESEARCH REAUTHORIZATION ACT

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. WESTERMAN, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1809]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1809) to reauthorize funding to monitor, assess, and research the Great Lakes Basin, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 1809 is to reauthorize funding to monitor, assess, and research the Great Lakes Basin.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 1809 reauthorizes the Great Lakes Fishery Research Program (Program). Established in 2019, the Program allows the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct “monitoring, assessment, science, and research, in support of the binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin.”¹ In creating the Program, Congress found that fisheries management and research requires sound science and new technologies to support the diverse ecosystem and economic engine of the Great Lakes.² To inform fisheries managers, the Program conducts research and investigations on various topics, including fish movement and behavior, deepwater ecosystem science, fish

¹ 16 U.S.C. 941h(c)(1).

² 16 U.S.C. 941h(b).

habitat, invasive species science, and leveraging existing and new technology, vessels, and scientific tools.³

The Program is authorized through Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 at \$15 million per year. H.R. 1809 would extend the authorization for another five years, until FY 2030, at existing funding levels.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1809 was introduced on March 3, 2025, by Representative Mike Quigley (D–IL). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries. On April 8, 2025, the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on the bill. On July 15, 2025, the Committee on Natural Resources met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1809 by unanimous consent. The bill was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held on April 8, 2025.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 establishes the short title of this act as the “Great Lakes Fishery Research Reauthorization Act.”

Section 2. Reauthorization of funding to monitor, assess, and research Great Lakes Basin

Section 2 reauthorizes funding to monitor, assess, and research the Great Lakes Basin through FY 2030 at existing funding levels.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources’ oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) and (3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and sections 308(a) and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following estimate for the bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

³ 16 U.S.C. 941(h)(c)(3).

H.R. 1809, Great Lakes Fishery Research Reauthorization Act As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 15, 2025			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2025	2025-2030	2025-2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	70	75
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 1809 would reauthorize the appropriation of \$15 million each year from 2026 through 2030 for the U.S. Geological Survey to monitor, assess, and research activities in support of the binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin. Under current law, that authority expires at the end of 2025. In 2024, the Congress provided \$15 million for those activities.

CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted near the end of 2025 and that the specified amounts will be provided in each year. Based on historical spending patterns for similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$70 million over the 2025–2030 period and \$5 million after 2030.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION UNDER H.R. 1809

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2025– 2030
Authorization	0	15	15	15	15	15	75
Estimated Outlays	0	11	14	15	15	15	70

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Emilia Oliva. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

2. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to reauthorize funding to monitor, assess, and research the Great Lakes Basin.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

According to the Congressional Budget Office, H.R. 1809 contains no unfunded mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Directed Rule Making. This bill does not contain any directed rule makings.

Duplication of Existing Programs. This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the Federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95–220, as amended by Public Law 98–169) as relating to other programs.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill’s purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

FURTHER CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

* * * * *

DIVISION P—OTHER MATTER

* * * * *

TITLE II—GREAT LAKES

SEC. 201. GREAT LAKES MONITORING, ASSESSMENT, SCIENCE, AND RESEARCH.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

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

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

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

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

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

(c) MONITORING, ASSESSMENT, SCIENCE, AND RESEARCH.—

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

(2) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Director shall, under paragraph (1)—

(A) execute a comprehensive, multi-lake, freshwater fisheries science program;

(B) coordinate with and work cooperatively with regional, State, tribal, and local governments; and

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

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

(A) deepwater ecosystem sciences;

(B) biological and food-web components;

(C) fish movement and behavior investigations;

(D) fish population structures;

(E) fish habitat investigations;

(F) invasive species science;

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

(H) studies to assess impacts on Great Lakes Fishery resources.

(4) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section is intended or shall be construed to impede, supersede, or alter the authority of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, States, and Indian tribes under the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between the United States of America and Canada on September 10, 1954, and the Great Lakes Fishery Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 931 et seq.).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For each of fiscal years 2021 through **[2025]** 2030, there is authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000 to carry out this section.

* * * * *

