

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8977

To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a grant program to fund youth fishing projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. PORTER, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a grant program to fund youth fishing projects, 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 “Youth Coastal Fishing
5 Program Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. YOUTH COASTAL FISHING GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, act-
3 ing through the Administrator of the National Oceanic
4 and Atmospheric Administration (in this section referred
5 to as the “Secretary”), shall establish a program to award
6 grants and provide technical assistance to eligible entities
7 for the purpose of establishing youth fishing projects.

8 (b) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity seeking a
9 grant under this section shall submit an application at
10 such time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
11 tion as the Secretary may require.

12 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary shall, for
13 purposes of determining whether an entity is eligible to
14 receive a grant under this section, develop criteria to make
15 that determination in consultation with relevant offices of
16 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
17 such as the Office of Coastal Management, the National
18 Sea Grant Office, the National Marine Fisheries Service,
19 and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

20 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Eligible entities receiving
21 grants under this section shall use grant funds for pur-
22 poses related to conducting a youth fishing project, includ-
23 ing the—

24 (1) purchase or rental of fishing equipment;

25 (2) cost of transporting participants to and
26 from a youth fishing project;

1 (3) fees associated with boat rental, pier access,
2 or other facilities;

3 (4) fishing license purchases;

4 (5) fishing guide costs; or

5 (6) other expenses related to conducting a
6 youth fishing project as determined by the Sec-
7 retary.

8 (e) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this section,
9 the Secretary shall give priority to applications containing
10 proposals for youth fishing projects focused on an under-
11 served community.

12 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
13 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to
14 Congress a report on—

15 (1) which eligible entities received grants;

16 (2) the amount each eligible entity received;

17 (3) how eligible entities used funds as described
18 in subsection (d); and

19 (4) the number of participants in youth fishing
20 projects funded by grants under this section.

21 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
23 ty” means—

24 (A) a nonprofit organization;

25 (B) an educational institution;

1 (C) a State, local, Tribal, or Territorial
2 government; or

3 (D) a Native Hawaiian organization.

4 (2) UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—The term
5 “underserved community” means populations shar-
6 ing a particular characteristic, and geographic com-
7 munities, that have been systematically denied a full
8 opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, so-
9 cial, and civic life, such as—

10 (A) racial and ethnic minorities;

11 (B) persons with access and functional
12 needs; or

13 (C) persons otherwise adversely affected by
14 persistent poverty or inequality.

15 (3) YOUTH FISHING PROJECT.—The term
16 “youth fishing project” means a project that pro-
17 vides youth with—

18 (A) a recreational fishing experience con-
19 ducted from a shore, pier, or boat located in the
20 Great Lakes, coastal waters, ocean waters, or a
21 tidal river;

22 (B) education about marine science, con-
23 servation, and fishing regulations; and

24 (C) information on where and how to con-
25 tinue fishing.

1 (h) FUNDING.—

2 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

3 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
4 this section \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.

5 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Funds made available to
6 carry out this section shall be available until ex-
7 pended.

8 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 3
9 percent of the amount made available for a fiscal
10 year under paragraph (1) may be used by the Sec-
11 retary for the administrative costs of carrying out
12 this section.

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