

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2079

To preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. MOULTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen.

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 “Young Fishermen’s  
5 Development Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1           (1) the average age of commercial fishermen  
2 continues to increase due to fewer new entrants re-  
3 placing retiring fishermen;

4           (2) there are fewer young or beginning fisher-  
5 men entering the commercial fisheries for many rea-  
6 sons, including the lack of training, fewer entry level  
7 opportunities, lack of capital, and other barriers to  
8 entry;

9           (3) without well-trained young or beginning  
10 fishermen to replace those retiring, fishing busi-  
11 nesses and vessels will be lost and fishing commu-  
12 nities will suffer;

13           (4) for food security and economic reasons, it is  
14 in the United States national interest to sustainably  
15 harvest United States fishery resources;

16           (5) United States farmers and ranchers faced  
17 similar difficulties and Congress responded by enact-  
18 ing the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Develop-  
19 ment Program administered by the Department of  
20 Agriculture;

21           (6) the Young Fishermen's Development Grant  
22 Program established by this Act is modeled after the  
23 successful Department of Agriculture program; and

24           (7) the training, education, and outreach pro-  
25 vided for in the Young Fishermen's Development

1 Grant Program established by this Act will ensure  
2 there is a next generation of commercial fishermen  
3 and businesses to harvest the United States rich  
4 fishery resources and support our coastal commu-  
5 nities.

6 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

7 (1) to establish a national grant program to  
8 support the training and education of the United  
9 States next generation of commercial fishermen; and

10 (2) to engage partnerships and collaborations  
11 led by or including nongovernmental, community-  
12 based fishing organizations, and school-based fish-  
13 eries, including Sea Grant Institutions, or marine  
14 educational organizations with expertise in new fish-  
15 eries training and outreach, to provide the education  
16 and training.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act—

19 (1) the term “young fishermen” means an indi-  
20 vidual who—

21 (A)(i) desires to participate in the commer-  
22 cial fisheries of the United States, including the  
23 Great Lakes fisheries;

24 (ii) has worked as a captain, crew member,  
25 deckhand, or other at-sea position on a com-

1           merchial fishing vessel for not more than 10  
2           years of cumulative service;

3           (iii) is a beginning commercial fisherman;

4           or

5           (iv) meets such other criteria as the Sec-  
6           retary of Commerce may establish; and

7           (B) is less than 35 years of age; and

8           (2) the term “Sea Grant Institution” means a  
9           sea grant college or sea grant institute, as those  
10          terms are defined in section 203 of the National Sea  
11          Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1122).

12 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

13          The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Na-  
14          tional Sea Grant Office, shall establish a Young Fisher-  
15          men’s Development Grant Program to provide training,  
16          education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives  
17          for young fishermen.

18 **SEC. 5. GRANTS.**

19          (a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this Act, the Sec-  
20          retary shall make competitive grants to support new and  
21          established local and regional training, education, out-  
22          reach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fisher-  
23          men, including programs, workshops, and services relating  
24          to—

1           (1) seamanship, navigation, electronics, and  
2 safety;

3           (2) vessel and engine care, maintenance, and  
4 repair;

5           (3) innovative conservation fishing gear engi-  
6 neering and technology;

7           (4) sustainable fishing practices;

8           (5) entrepreneurship and good business prac-  
9 tices;

10          (6) direct marketing, supply chain, and  
11 traceability;

12          (7) financial and risk management, including  
13 vessel, permit, and quota purchasing;

14          (8) State and Federal legal requirements for  
15 specific fisheries, including reporting, monitoring, li-  
16 censes, and regulations;

17          (9) State and Federal fisheries policy and man-  
18 agement;

19          (10) mentoring, apprenticeships, or internships;  
20 and

21          (11) any other activities, opportunities, or pro-  
22 grams as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

23 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

24          (1) APPLICANTS.—To be eligible to receive a  
25 grant under this Act, the recipient must be a col-

1 laborative State, Tribal, local, or regionally based  
2 network or partnership of public or private entities,  
3 which may include—

4 (A) a Sea Grant Institution;

5 (B) a Federal, State, or Tribal agency;

6 (C) a community-based or nongovernment-  
7 al organization;

8 (D) fishermen’s cooperatives or associa-  
9 tions, including permit banks and trusts;

10 (E) Alaska Native corporations;

11 (F) a college or university (including an in-  
12 stitution awarding an associate’s degree), or a  
13 foundation maintained by a college or univer-  
14 sity; or

15 (G) any other appropriate entity as deter-  
16 mined by the Secretary.

17 (2) PARTICIPANTS.—All young fishermen seek-  
18 ing to participate in the commercial fisheries of the  
19 United States and the Great Lakes are eligible to  
20 participate in the activities funded through grants  
21 provided for in this section, except that participants  
22 in such activities shall be selected by each grant re-  
23 cipient.

24 (c) MAXIMUM TERM AND AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section  
2 shall—

3           (A) have a term of no more than 3 fiscal  
4 years; and

5           (B) be in an amount that is not more than  
6 \$200,000 for each fiscal year.

7           (2) CONSECUTIVE GRANTS.—An eligible recipi-  
8 ent may receive consecutive grants under this sec-  
9 tion.

10          (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible to re-  
11 ceive a grant under this section, a recipient shall provide  
12 a match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions in  
13 the amount equal to or greater than 25 percent of the  
14 funds provided by the grant.

15          (e) REGIONAL BALANCE.—In making grants under  
16 this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent  
17 practicable, ensure geographic diversity.

18          (f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
19 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to partnerships and  
20 collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental  
21 fishing community-based organizations and school-based  
22 fisheries educational organizations with expertise in fish-  
23 eries and sustainable fishing training and outreach.

24          (g) COOPERATION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In  
25 carrying out this section and especially in developing cri-

1 teria for evaluating grant applications, the Secretary shall  
2 cooperate, to the maximum extent practicable, with—

3 (1) Sea Grant Institutions and extension agents  
4 of such institutions;

5 (2) community-based and nongovernmental  
6 fishing organizations;

7 (3) Federal and State agencies, including Re-  
8 gional Fishery Management Councils established  
9 under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation  
10 and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.);

11 (4) colleges and universities with fisheries ex-  
12 pertise and programs; and

13 (5) other appropriate partners as determined by  
14 the Secretary.

15 (h) PROHIBITION.—A grant under this section may  
16 not be used to purchase any fishing license, permit, quota,  
17 or other harvesting right.

18 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made available to  
20 the Secretary of Commerce under section 311(e) of the  
21 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-  
22 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1861(e)) for each of fiscal years  
23 2018 through 2022, the Secretary shall use \$2,000,000  
24 to carry out section 5 of this Act.



1           (b) PROPORTIONAL ALLOCATION.—The amount obli-  
2 gated under this section each fiscal year for activities in  
3 each fishery management region shall be in the same pro-  
4 portion as the portion of the total amount obligated under  
5 this section for that fiscal year that was collected in that  
6 region.

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