

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1332

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish and carry out a program to sequence the genomes of aquatic species.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Mr. MIN (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Ms. ELFRETH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish and carry out a program to sequence the genomes of aquatic species.

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 “Aquatic Biodiversity
5 Preservation Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. AQUATIC SPECIES GENOME SEQUENCING PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and
9 carry out a program to sequence the genomes of aquatic
10 species, in coordination with covered entities, to enhance

1 scientific understanding and conservation, management,
2 and enforcement efforts with respect to such species.

3 (b) PROGRAM DUTIES.—In carrying out the Pro-
4 gram, the Secretary shall carry out activities that include
5 the following:

6 (1) Identify and catalogue vouchered specimens,
7 verifiably identified by a taxonomist, of aquatic spe-
8 cies held by covered entities for the purpose of in-
9 cluding such aquatic species in the Program.

10 (2) Obtain genetic samples, including through
11 purchase or field collection, of priority species.

12 (3) Extract and process DNA from samples of
13 aquatic species or the environment through labora-
14 tory analysis, including carrying out any labor and
15 acquiring any supplies required for such analysis.

16 (4) Sequence the genomes of aquatic species to
17 accepted completeness and quality standards for ref-
18 erence genomes, including, as the Secretary deter-
19 mines appropriate, nuclear, mitochondrial, and
20 chloroplast DNA.

21 (5) Collect, catalogue, and store the metadata
22 created by sequencing the genomes of aquatic spe-
23 cies under paragraph (4).

1 (6) Make publicly available the genomes and as-
2 sociated metadata of aquatic species that have been
3 sequenced but are not publicly available.

4 (7) Provide funding and technical assistance to
5 covered entities that the Secretary determines appro-
6 priate to carry out the activities described in para-
7 graphs (1) through (6).

8 (8) Establish principles for the management
9 and sharing of data collected and produced through
10 the Program in accordance with the document titled
11 “The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data
12 management and stewardship” (published March 15,
13 2016).

14 (c) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION BY COVERED ENTI-
15 TIES.—A covered entity may carry out the activities de-
16 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (6) of subsection (b)
17 pursuant to the Program.

18 (d) DATA SHARING.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
20 graph (2), if the Secretary or a covered entity se-
21 quences the genome of an aquatic species pursuant
22 to the Program, not later than 360 days after the
23 date on which the sequencing of such genome is
24 completed, the Secretary or the covered entity that
25 sequenced such genome, as applicable, shall submit

1 to the National Center for Biotechnology Informa-
2 tion to make publicly available such sequenced ge-
3 nome and any associated raw sequence data and
4 metadata, including—

5 (A) the species of such genome;

6 (B) the location of where the sample that
7 was used to sequence such genome was col-
8 lected;

9 (C) the time and date of when such sample
10 was collected;

11 (D) the process by which such genome was
12 sequenced; and

13 (E) any information required pursuant to
14 the principles for the management and sharing
15 of data collected and produced through the Pro-
16 gram established under subsection (b)(8).

17 (2) EXCEPTION FOR TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—

18 If, pursuant to the Program, a Tribal Government
19 sequences the genome of an aquatic species or pro-
20 vides a sample of an aquatic species to the Secretary
21 that the Secretary uses to sequence the genome of
22 such species, the Tribal Government shall be the
23 only entity with the authority to determine whether
24 and when to submit to the National Center for Bio-
25 technology Information to make publicly available

1 the data collected and produced through such se-
2 quencing.

3 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
5 out the Program \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
6 through 2031.

7 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) AQUATIC SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVA-
9 TION NEED.—The term “aquatic species of greatest
10 conservation need” means an aquatic species that,
11 unless otherwise specified, the Secretary determines
12 requires conservation attention because such spe-
13 cies—

14 (A) has a low or declining population;

15 (B) is facing threats; or

16 (C) is considered by a Tribal Government
17 or Native Hawaiian organization to be bio-
18 logically or culturally significant for indigenous
19 purposes.

20 (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
21 tity” means—

22 (A) a Federal agency;

23 (B) a State Government;

24 (C) a Tribal Government;

25 (D) a Native Hawaiian organization;

1 (E) a nonprofit organization; and

2 (F) an institution of higher education.

3 (3) HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM.—The term
4 “harmful algal bloom” has the meaning given the
5 term in section 609 of the Harmful Algal Bloom and
6 Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (33
7 U.S.C. 4008).

8 (4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
9 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
10 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
11 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

12 (5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
13 term “institution of higher education” has the
14 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

16 (6) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The
17 term “Native Hawaiian organization”—

18 (A) means an organization that—

19 (i) serves and represents the interests
20 of Native Hawaiians;

21 (ii) has as a primary and stated pur-
22 pose the provision of services to Native
23 Hawaiians; and

24 (iii) has expertise in Native Hawaiian
25 affairs; and

1 (B) includes Native Hawaiian organiza-
2 tions registered with the Office of Native Ha-
3 waiian Relations of the Department of the Inte-
4 rior.

5 (7) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
6 “nonprofit organization” means an organization—

7 (A) described in section 501(c)(3) of the
8 Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

9 (B) that is exempt from taxation under
10 section 501(a) of that Code.

11 (8) PRIORITY SPECIES.—The term “priority
12 species” means an aquatic species—

13 (A) the genome of which has not been fully
14 sequenced or is not publicly available; and

15 (B) that is—

16 (i) listed as a threatened species or as
17 an endangered species pursuant to section
18 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973
19 (16 U.S.C. 1533);

20 (ii) included in the Non-indigenous
21 Aquatic Species database of the United
22 States Geological Survey;

23 (iii) listed in 1 of the Appendices of
24 the Convention on International Trade in

1 Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and
2 Flora;

3 (iv) a macroinvertebrate that acts as a
4 biological indicator of aquatic ecosystem
5 health;

6 (v) a species that contributes to harm-
7 ful algal blooms or a foodborne illness de-
8 rived from eating seafood;

9 (vi) a species of fish that is managed
10 pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
11 Conservation and Management Act (16
12 U.S.C. 1801);

13 (vii) an aquatic species of greatest
14 conservation need;

15 (viii) a species protected under the
16 Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972
17 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.);

18 (ix) a species monitored under the
19 Seafood Import Monitoring Program of the
20 National Marine Fisheries Service; or

21 (x) a look-alike species or a species
22 that is morphologically or genetically close-
23 ly related to a species described in clauses
24 (i) through (x).

1 (9) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
2 the program established under subsection (a).

3 (10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
4 means the Secretary of Commerce.

5 (11) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
6 the several States, the District of Columbia, the
7 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa,
8 Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
9 Islands, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and
10 any other territory or possession of the United
11 States.

12 (12) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “Tribal
13 Government” means the recognized governing body
14 of an Indian Tribe.

15 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
16 on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enact-
17 ment of this section.

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