

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1917

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 2025

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public
Works

AN ACT

To establish the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Great Lakes Mass
3 Marking Program Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) the Great Lakes have experienced rapid
7 changes in recent years due to—

8 (A) the introduction of multiple aquatic
9 invasive species;

10 (B) alterations in the food web; and

11 (C) decreases in the abundance of prey
12 species;

13 (2) due to rapid biological change in the Great
14 Lakes, the Great Lakes need a collaborative, science-
15 based program to assist in making management ac-
16 tions regarding fish stocking rates, the rehabilitation
17 of important fish species, and habitat restoration;

18 (3) the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan,
19 Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Wis-
20 consin and Indian Tribes in those States, working
21 through the Council of Lake Committees of the
22 Great Lakes Fishery Commission, have identified
23 that mass marking is—

24 (A) a precise tool to keep hatchery-pro-
25 duced fish in balance with wild fish; and

1 (B) essential to achieving fishery manage-
2 ment and research objectives through producing
3 a better understanding of—

4 (i) the quantity of hatchery produced
5 fish compared to wild fish in the Great
6 Lakes;

7 (ii) the effectiveness of hatchery oper-
8 ations; and

9 (iii) the effectiveness of fishery man-
10 agement actions;

11 (4) the mass marking program of the United
12 States Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great
13 Lakes—

14 (A) was initiated in 2010 on a limited
15 scale;

16 (B) annually tags approximately 9,000,000
17 to 11,000,000 of the hatchery-produced fish
18 stocked in the Great Lakes;

19 (C) is a basinwide cooperative effort
20 among the United States Fish and Wildlife
21 Service, Indian Tribes, and State management
22 agencies; and

23 (D) produces data used by State and Trib-
24 al fish management agencies to make manage-
25 ment decisions regarding Great Lakes fisheries;

(5) annually, Federal, State, and Tribal agencies stock approximately 21,000,000 hatchery-produced fish in the Great Lakes to support—

(A) native species recovery; and

(B) recreational and commercial fishing;

(6) mass marking of hatchery-produced fish, using automated technology, is an efficient method of implementing a collaborative, science-based fishery program; and

(7) the Great Lakes are an important and valued resource that—

(A) supports a robust regional economy valued at more than \$7,000,000,000; and

(B) provides stability to the economy of the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(2) **PROGRAM.**—The term “Program” means the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program established by section 4(a).

1 **SEC. 4. GREAT LAKES MASS MARKING PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—To assist in determining the effec-
3 tiveness of hatchery operations and fisheries management
4 actions and to support Great Lakes fisheries, there is es-
5 tablished within the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
6 ice a program for the mass marking of hatchery-produced
7 fish in the Great Lakes basin, to be known as the “Great
8 Lakes Mass Marking Program”.

9 (b) AUTHORIZED ACTIONS.—In carrying out the Pro-
10 gram, the Director may—

11 (1) purchase capital and expendable equipment,
12 fish tags, and other items necessary to support and
13 carry out tagging and tag recovery operations, in-
14 cluding data processing and data dissemination re-
15 lating to those operations; and

16 (2) hire additional personnel, as necessary.

17 (c) REQUIRED COLLABORATION.—In carrying out
18 the Program, the Director shall collaborate with applicable
19 Federal, State, and Tribal fish management agencies, the
20 Council of Lake Committees of the Great Lakes Fishery
21 Commission, and signatories to the Joint Strategic Plan
22 for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries.

23 (d) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—The Director shall
24 make the data collected under the Program available to
25 applicable Federal, State, and Tribal fish management
26 agencies—

1 (1) to increase the understanding of the out-
2 comes of management action;

3 (2) to assist in meeting the restoration objec-
4 tives of the Great Lakes, including the fish commu-
5 nity objectives and fish management plans described
6 in the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of
7 Great Lakes Fisheries;

8 (3) to assist in balancing predators and prey;

9 (4) to support and improve the economic status
10 of Tribal, recreational, and commercial fisheries; and

11 (5) to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of
12 habitat restoration efforts in the Great Lakes.

13 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
15 the Program \$2,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
16 through 2030.

Passed the House of Representatives July 22, 2025.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.