

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2293

To require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2025

Mr. EZELL (for himself, Mr. GUEST, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities.

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 “Cormorant Relief Act
5 of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. REGULATIONS RELATING TO TAKING OF DOUBLE-**
2 **CRESTED CORMORANTS AT AQUACULTURE**
3 **FACILITIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reissue the
5 original depredation order in accordance with subsection
6 (b).

7 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The depredation order re-
8 issued under subsection (a) shall be the same as the origi-
9 nal depredation order, except that the depredation order
10 reissued under subsection (a)—

11 (1) shall apply to each of the States of Cali-
12 fornia, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana,
13 Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Penn-
14 sylvania, and Wisconsin in addition to and in the
15 same manner as each of the States to which the
16 original depredation order applied; and

17 (2) shall apply to lake managers and pond man-
18 agers in addition to and in the same manner as each
19 of the entities to which the original depredation
20 order applied.

21 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) LAKE MANAGER.—The term “lake man-
23 ager” means a person that is licensed by a State
24 regulatory agency to manage a private lake.

25 (2) ORIGINAL DEPREDATION ORDER.—The
26 term “original depredation order” means the depre-

1 dation order for double-crested cormorants at aqua-
2 culture facilities contained in section 21.47 of title
3 50, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on
4 January 1, 2016).

5 (3) POND MANAGER.—The term “pond man-
6 ager” means a person that is licensed by a State
7 regulatory agency to manage a private pond.

8 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
10 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
11 ice.

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