

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4800

To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to make certain freshwater fisheries eligible for fishery resource disaster relief.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2025

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. FIELDS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to make certain freshwater fisheries eligible for fishery resource disaster relief.

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 “Fisheries Moderniza-
5 tion Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. CERTAIN FRESHWATER FISHERIES ELIGIBLE FOR**
 2 **FISHERY RESOURCE DISASTER RELIEF.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-
 4 Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
 5 U.S.C. 1861a(a)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “in-
 8 frastructure-related cause,” after “discrete an-
 9 thropogenic cause,”;

10 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)
 11 through (G) as subparagraphs (F) through (H),
 12 respectively; and

13 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
 14 the following:

15 “(E) INFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED
 16 CAUSE.—The term ‘infrastructure-related
 17 cause’ means an event—

18 “(i) caused by the operation or failure
 19 of Federal or State infrastructure, includ-
 20 ing—

21 “(I) flood control systems;

22 “(II) spillways;

23 “(III) levees; and

24 “(IV) diversions; and

25 “(ii) that results in measurable dis-
 26 ruption to commercial or subsistence fish-

1 ery activity, aquatic habitat, or water qual-
2 ity.”;

3 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “, includ-
4 ing with respect to the red swamp crawfish
5 (Procambarus clarkii) and white river crawfish
6 (Procambarus zonangulus) fisheries” after “in ac-
7 cordance with this subsection”;

8 (3) in paragraph (3)(B)(v)—

9 (A) in subclause (III), by striking “and” at
10 the end;

11 (B) in subclause (IV), by striking the pe-
12 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

13 (C) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(V) with respect to the red
15 swamp crawfish (Procambarus clarkii)
16 and white river crawfish
17 (Procambarus zonangulus) fisheries,
18 information related to hydrological
19 conditions, water quality degradation,
20 extreme flooding or drought, or other
21 environmental disruptions that di-
22 rectly impact viability.”; and

23 (4) in paragraph (5)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) by redesignating clauses (iii) and
 2 (iv) as clauses (iv) and (v), respectively;

3 (ii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
 4 following:

5 “(iii) an infrastructure-related
 6 cause;”; and

7 (iii) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
 8 by striking “a combination of a natural
 9 cause and an anthropogenic cause” and in-
 10 serting “any combination of clauses (i)
 11 through (iii)”; and

12 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and
 13 safety,” and inserting “and safety, and includ-
 14 ing a disaster affecting the red swamp crawfish
 15 (*Procambarus clarkii*) and white river crawfish
 16 (*Procambarus zonangulus*) fisheries,”.

17 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
 18 tion may be construed to limit, reduce, or otherwise affect
 19 the eligibility of any marine or anadromous fishery for
 20 fishery resource disaster assistance under section 312 of
 21 the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-
 22 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a).

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