

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 9299

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to award amounts to eligible entities to develop and carry out programs to incorporate eDNA monitoring techniques into and use eDNA monitoring techniques in carrying out sport fish surveys, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2026

Ms. SCHOLTEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to award amounts to eligible entities to develop and carry out programs to incorporate eDNA monitoring techniques into and use eDNA monitoring techniques in carrying out sport fish surveys, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Next-Gen-
5 eration Genetic Learning for Effective Resource Strategy
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. eDNA SPORT FISH SURVEY GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination
3 with the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Ad-
4 ministrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
5 ministration, and Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership
6 Council, shall establish a grant program to award amounts
7 to eligible entities to develop and carry out programs to
8 incorporate eDNA monitoring techniques into and use
9 eDNA monitoring techniques in carrying out sport fish
10 surveys, to be known as the “eDNA Sport Fish Survey
11 grant program”.

12 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under
13 the grant program, an eligible entity shall submit to the
14 Secretary an application in such form, at such time, and
15 containing such information as the Secretary determines
16 appropriate.

17 (c) STATE AND TRIBAL FISH AND WILDLIFE AGEN-
18 CIES.—In carrying out the grant program, the Secretary
19 shall encourage each eligible entity that is awarded a grant
20 under the grant program to collaborate and work in co-
21 ordination with relevant State and Tribal fish and wildlife
22 agencies.

23 (d) ELIGIBLE USES.—An eligible entity that is
24 awarded a grant under the grant program shall use such
25 grant to develop and carry out a program to incorporate
26 eDNA monitoring techniques into and use eDNA moni-

1 toring techniques in carrying out sport fish surveys in
2 order to—

3 (1) increase the spatial scale of the sampling of
4 sport fish surveys across broader geographic areas,
5 including under surveyed or remote regions;

6 (2) increase the frequency of sport fish surveys
7 for improved accuracy of population count and spe-
8 cies distribution for management;

9 (3) enhance the accuracy of species identifica-
10 tion and population estimates of sport fish;

11 (4) improve the availability of data for sport
12 fish populations to inform fisheries management and
13 conservation practices;

14 (5) detect invasive species; or

15 (6) monitor species listed as endangered species
16 under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of
17 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533).

18 (e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the grant
19 program, the Secretary shall give priority to applications
20 from eligible entities that demonstrate the intent of the
21 eligible entity to collaborate with other eligible entities in
22 using any awarded amounts.

23 (f) DATA COLLECTION.—In carrying out the grant
24 program, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable,
25 identify and collect data that informs objective metrics of

1 the efficacy of each program carried out by each eligible
2 entity that is awarded a grant under the grant program.

3 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
5 out this section \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
6 through 2033.

7 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) eDNA.—The term “eDNA” means genetic
9 material, such as DNA or RNA, that is collected
10 from an environmental sample of water or sediment.

11 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
12 ty” means—

13 (A) a State, local, or Tribal government;

14 (B) an institution of higher education; and

15 (C) a nonprofit organization.

16 (3) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term “grant pro-
17 gram” means the eDNA Sport Fish Survey grant
18 program established under subsection (a).

19 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
20 term “institution of higher education” has the
21 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
22 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

1 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
3 rector of the United States Geological Survey.

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