

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3521

To authorize grants for data collection for use in stock assessments of red snapper and other reef fish species in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

Mr. JOLLY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize grants for data collection for use in stock assessments of red snapper and other reef fish species in the Gulf of Mexico, 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 “Gulf Red Snapper
5 Data Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER AND OTHER REEF**
7 **FISH SPECIES DATA COLLECTION GRANTS.**

8 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Com-
9 merce, acting through the National Marine Fisheries Serv-

1 ice Southeast Regional Office, shall award competitive
2 grants for fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data
3 collection for use in stock assessments for red snapper and
4 other reef fish species in the Gulf of Mexico.

5 (b) INNOVATIVE APPROACHES.—In awarding grants
6 under this section, the Secretary shall seek to improve red
7 snapper and other reef fish species stock assessments
8 through innovative approaches to data collection that in-
9 corporates data from cooperative peer-reviewed research
10 involving academia, fishermen, and other fisheries sources.

11 (c) GRANT PERIOD.—Grants under this section may
12 be for one or more fiscal years.

13 **SEC. 3. COMMUNICATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall
15 seek to improve communications by the National Marine
16 Fisheries Service with stakeholders regarding the Gulf of
17 Mexico red snapper and other reef fish species stock as-
18 sessment processes and outcomes of such processes.

19 (b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall—

20 (1) by not later than 180 days after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act, report to Congress on
22 actions taken under this section and the results of
23 such actions; and

24 (2) update such report every 180 days there-
25 after.

1 **SEC. 4. PROCESS FOR USING GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAP-**
2 **PER AND OTHER REEF FISH SPECIES COOP-**
3 **ERATIVE RESEARCH DATA.**

4 The Secretary of Commerce shall—

5 (1) by not later than 180 days after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act, develop and report to
7 the Congress on a process for using data collected
8 through cooperative research activities for Gulf of
9 Mexico red snapper and other reef fish species stock
10 assessments; and

11 (2) update such report every 180 days there-
12 after.

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

14 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
15 retary of Commerce \$10,000,000 for grants, personnel,
16 operations, and data collection under this Act to improve
17 Gulf of Mexico red snapper and other reef fish species
18 stock assessments.

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