

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4754

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a 12-month study of the effects of double-crested cormorants on commercial and recreational fish species, and to require the Secretary to prepare a long-term, comprehensive population management strategy for double-crested cormorants.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON (for himself, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. PICKERING, and Mr. CALLAHAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a 12-month study of the effects of double-crested cormorants on commercial and recreational fish species, and to require the Secretary to prepare a long-term, comprehensive population management strategy for double-crested cormorants.

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. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT STUDY AND**
4 **MANAGEMENT STRATEGY.**

5 (a) STUDY AND REPORT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
2 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
3 Secretary of the Interior shall—

4 (A) study over a 12-month period of cur-
5 rent and projected effects of double-crested cor-
6 morants on commercial and recreational fish
7 species in the United States; and

8 (B) submit a report on the findings and
9 conclusions of that study to the Committee on
10 Resources of the House of Representatives and
11 the Committee on Environment and Public
12 Works of the Senate.

13 (2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include a re-
14 view of the current state of scientific knowledge on
15 this subject and identify gaps in that knowledge that
16 need to be filled in order to develop a long-term
17 strategy to address any impacts of double-crested
18 cormorants on commercial and recreational fish spe-
19 cies in the United States.

20 (b) LONG-TERM, COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT
21 STRATEGY FOR DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS.—

22 (1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of the Inte-
23 rior, using amounts made available to carry out this
24 subsection and after completion of the study under
25 subsection (a), shall prepare a long-term, com-

1 preprehensive population management strategy for dou-
2 ble-crested cormorants in the United States.

3 (2) PARTICIPATION BY STATES.—The Secretary
4 shall seek the participation of State fish and wildlife
5 management agencies and State environmental agen-
6 cies in the preparation of the strategy.

7 (3) OTHER PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTA-
8 TION.—In preparing the strategy, the Secretary
9 shall—

10 (A) provide an opportunity for public com-
11 ment on the draft report;

12 (B) consult with the Secretary of Agri-
13 culture;

14 (C) invite appropriate officials of the Gov-
15 ernment of Canada to participate;

16 (D) seek the participation of State fish and
17 wildlife management agencies, State environ-
18 mental agencies, and other interested parties
19 and members of the public; and

20 (E) consider the comments received before
21 preparing the final strategy.

○