

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 2972

To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide for a cooperative research and management program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2002

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide for a cooperative research and management program, 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 “Fisheries Research Im-  
5       provement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT PEER REVIEW OF DATA COLLEC-**  
2 **TION PROCEDURES.**

3 The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and  
4 Management Act is amended by adding at the end of Title  
5 IV the following:

6 **“SEC. 408. PEER REVIEW.**

7 “The National Academy of Sciences shall review and  
8 recommend measures for improving National Marine  
9 Fisheries Service’s procedures for ensuring data quality  
10 in the data collection phase of the stock assessment pro-  
11 gram. In this review, they shall address the quality control  
12 protocols through which stock assessment equipment is  
13 calibrated, operated, inspected, and maintained; the fre-  
14 quency and financial cost of these quality control checks;  
15 how the accuracy and validity of data collected with sam-  
16 pling equipment is verified; and how measurement error  
17 is accounted for in stock assessment modeling and analysis  
18 based on these data. This review shall apply to all activi-  
19 ties that affect stock assessment data quality, whether  
20 conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service or by  
21 National Marine Fisheries Service contractors.”.

22 **SEC. 3. COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT.**

23 The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and  
24 Management Act is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
25 lowing:

1           **“TITLE V—COOPERATIVE**  
2           **RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT**

3           **“SEC. 501. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

4           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
5 national cooperative research and management program  
6 to be administered by the National Marine Fisheries Serv-  
7 ice, based on recommendations by the Councils. The pro-  
8 gram shall consist of cooperative research and manage-  
9 ment activities between fishing industry participants, the  
10 affected States, and the Service.

11          “(b) RESEARCH AWARDS.—Each research project  
12 under this program shall be awarded on a standard com-  
13 petitive basis established by the Service, in consultation  
14 with the Councils. Each Council shall establish a research  
15 steering committee to carry out this subsection.

16          “(c) GUIDELINES.—The Secretary, in consultation  
17 with the appropriate Council and the fishing industry,  
18 shall create guidelines so that participants in this program  
19 are not penalized for loss of catch history or unexpended  
20 days-at-sea as part of a limited entry system.

21          “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
22 are authorized to be appropriated to the National Marine  
23 Fisheries Service, in addition to amounts otherwise au-  
24 thorized by this Act, the following amounts, to remain  
25 available until expended, for the conduct of this program:

1           “(1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

2           “(2) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2004.

3           “(3) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

4           “(4) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.

5           “(5) \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 2007.

6           “(e) NEW ENGLAND TRAWL SURVEY.—Of the funds  
7 authorized in subsection (d) \$3,000,000 shall be author-  
8 ized for the purpose of cooperative comparative trawl re-  
9 search between the National Marine Fisheries Service and  
10 fishing industry participants for the Northeast multispe-  
11 cies groundfish fishery, which the Secretary shall design  
12 and administer with input from fishing industry partici-  
13 pants and other interested stakeholders.”.

14 **SEC. 4. REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY.**

15           Section 304(e)(4)(A)(ii) of the Magnuson-Stevens  
16 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.  
17 1854(e)(4)(A)(ii)) is amended to read as follows:

18                           “(ii) not exceed 10 years, except in  
19                           the case where a rebuilding target is  
20                           changed during the rebuilding period, the  
21                           Council or the Secretary may extend the  
22                           time period for the rebuilding to accommo-  
23                           date the new target;”.

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