

Union Calendar No.

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1917

[Report No. 119-]

To establish the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2025

Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. WALBERG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

JULY --, 2025

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 6, 2025]

A BILL

To establish the Great Lakes Mass Marking 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 “Great Lakes Mass Mark-*
5 *ing Program Act of 2025”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *Congress finds that—*

8 *(1) the Great Lakes have experienced rapid*
9 *changes in recent years due to—*

10 *(A) the introduction of multiple aquatic*
11 *invasive species;*

12 *(B) alterations in the food web; and*

13 *(C) decreases in the abundance of prey spe-*
14 *cies;*

15 *(2) due to rapid biological change in the Great*
16 *Lakes, the Great Lakes need a collaborative, science-*
17 *based program to assist in making management ac-*
18 *tions regarding fish stocking rates, the rehabilitation*
19 *of important fish species, and habitat restoration;*

20 *(3) the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan,*
21 *Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Wis-*
22 *consin and Indian Tribes in those States, working*
23 *through the Council of Lake Committees of the Great*
24 *Lakes Fishery Commission, have identified that mass*
25 *marking is—*

1 (A) a precise tool to keep hatchery-produced
2 fish in balance with wild fish; and

3 (B) essential to achieving fishery manage-
4 ment and research objectives through producing
5 a better understanding of—

6 (i) the quantity of hatchery produced
7 fish compared to wild fish in the Great
8 Lakes;

9 (ii) the effectiveness of hatchery oper-
10 ations; and

11 (iii) the effectiveness of fishery man-
12 agement actions;

13 (4) the mass marking program of the United
14 States Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes—

15 (A) was initiated in 2010 on a limited
16 scale;

17 (B) annually tags approximately 9,000,000
18 to 11,000,000 of the hatchery-produced fish
19 stocked in the Great Lakes;

20 (C) is a basinwide cooperative effort among
21 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, In-
22 dian Tribes, and State management agencies;
23 and

1 (D) produces data used by State and Tribal
2 fish management agencies to make management
3 decisions regarding Great Lakes fisheries;

4 (5) annually, Federal, State, and Tribal agencies
5 stock approximately 21,000,000 hatchery-produced
6 fish in the Great Lakes to support—

7 (A) native species recovery; and

8 (B) recreational and commercial fishing;

9 (6) mass marking of hatchery-produced fish,
10 using automated technology, is an efficient method of
11 implementing a collaborative, science-based fishery
12 program; and

13 (7) the Great Lakes are an important and val-
14 ued resource that—

15 (A) supports a robust regional economy val-
16 ued at more than \$7,000,000,000; and

17 (B) provides stability to the economy of the
18 United States.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20 *In this Act:*

21 (1) *DIRECTOR.*—The term “Director” means the
22 Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
23 ice.

1 (2) *PROGRAM.*—*The term “Program” means the*
2 *Great Lakes Mass Marking Program established by*
3 *section 4(a).*

4 **SEC. 4. GREAT LAKES MASS MARKING PROGRAM.**

5 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*To assist in determining the effec-*
6 *tiveness of hatchery operations and fisheries management*
7 *actions and to support Great Lakes fisheries, there is estab-*
8 *lished within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service*
9 *a program for the mass marking of hatchery-produced fish*
10 *in the Great Lakes basin, to be known as the “Great Lakes*
11 *Mass Marking Program”.*

12 (b) *AUTHORIZED ACTIONS.*—*In carrying out the Pro-*
13 *gram, the Director may—*

14 (1) *purchase capital and expendable equipment,*
15 *fish tags, and other items necessary to support and*
16 *carry out tagging and tag recovery operations, in-*
17 *cluding data processing and data dissemination relat-*
18 *ing to those operations; and*

19 (2) *hire additional personnel, as necessary.*

20 (c) *REQUIRED COLLABORATION.*—*In carrying out the*
21 *Program, the Director shall collaborate with applicable*
22 *Federal, State, and Tribal fish management agencies, the*
23 *Council of Lake Committees of the Great Lakes Fishery*
24 *Commission, and signatories to the Joint Strategic Plan*
25 *for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries.*

1 (d) *AVAILABILITY OF DATA.*—*The Director shall make*
2 *the data collected under the Program available to applicable*
3 *Federal, State, and Tribal fish management agencies—*

4 (1) *to increase the understanding of the outcomes*
5 *of management action;*

6 (2) *to assist in meeting the restoration objectives*
7 *of the Great Lakes, including the fish community ob-*
8 *jectives and fish management plans described in the*
9 *Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes*
10 *Fisheries;*

11 (3) *to assist in balancing predators and prey;*

12 (4) *to support and improve the economic status*
13 *of Tribal, recreational, and commercial fisheries; and*

14 (5) *to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of*
15 *habitat restoration efforts in the Great Lakes.*

16 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 *There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out*
18 *the Program \$2,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2026*
19 *through 2030.*