

Union Calendar No. 438

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3340

[Report No. 119-512]

To provide for the standardization, publication, and accessibility of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2025

Mr. FRY (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. PANETTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Additional sponsors: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASE, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. MACE, Mr. MIN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. GILLEN, Mr. VINDMAN, Ms. MCBRIDE, and Mr. TRAN

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To provide for the standardization, publication, and accessibility of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways, 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 “Modernizing Access
5 to Our Public Oceans Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.**—The term
9 “exclusive economic zone” has the meaning given
10 that term in section 107 of title 46, United States
11 Code.

12 (2) **FISHING RESTRICTION.**—The term “fishing
13 restriction” means a restriction on fishing in a fed-
14 erally managed fishery established under section
15 303(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
16 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
17 1853(b)(2)), including—

18 (A) a full or partial fishing closure, in
19 terms of both area and duration, or a seasonal
20 closure;

21 (B) a no-catch zone in the fishery;

22 (C) a restriction on the method of catch
23 for the fishery; and

24 (D) another restriction on fishing, as de-
25 termined by the Secretary.

1 (3) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—
2 The terms “Indian Tribe” and “Tribal organiza-
3 tion” have the meanings given those terms in section
4 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education
5 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

6 (4) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The
7 term “Native Hawaiian organization” has the mean-
8 ing given the term in section 6207 of the Elemen-
9 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
10 U.S.C. 7517), except that the term includes the De-
11 partment of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office
12 of Hawaiian Affairs of the State of Hawaii.

13 (5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
14 “nonprofit organization” means an organization that
15 is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Rev-
16 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under
17 section 501(a) of such Code.

18 (6) RECREATIONAL VESSEL.—The term “rec-
19 reational vessel” has the meaning given that term in
20 section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

21 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
22 the Secretary of Commerce.

23 **SEC. 3. DATA STANDARDIZATION.**

24 Not later than 31 months after the date of the enact-
25 ment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with rel-

1 evant stakeholders, including State and local governments,
2 Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations, shall
3 develop and adopt standards with respect to the coordina-
4 tion and dissemination of geospatial data relating to fish-
5 ing restrictions, use of the exclusive economic zone by rec-
6 reational vessels, and access to Federal waters by such
7 vessels, including such data made available under section
8 4.

9 **SEC. 4. DATA PUBLICATION AND ACCESSIBILITY.**

10 (a) DATA ON FISHING AND RECREATIONAL VESSELS
11 IN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—Not later than 4 years
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary,
13 acting through the Director of the Office of Science and
14 Technology of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and
15 to the maximum extent practicable, shall make available
16 on a publicly accessible website geographic information
17 system data that—

18 (1) includes, with respect to the exclusive eco-
19 nomic zone—

20 (A) information with respect to the condi-
21 tions under which fishing restrictions are im-
22 posed and the areas within the exclusive eco-
23 nomic zone that are open or closed to rec-
24 reational boating, diving, and related rec-
25 reational activities (as determined by the Sec-

1 retary), including for safety reasons such as be-
2 cause of the presence of harmful algal blooms;

3 (B) the areas of the exclusive economic
4 zone with restrictions on the use of motorized
5 propulsion, horsepower, or fuel by or of rec-
6 reational vessels; and

7 (C) the types of recreational vessels that
8 are restricted on each area of the exclusive eco-
9 nomic zone;

10 (2) describes the geographic boundaries of
11 areas where fishing restrictions occur; and

12 (3)(A) identifies Federal marine protected
13 areas, including National Marine Sanctuaries, na-
14 tional marine monuments, and other federally pro-
15 tected waters; and

16 (B) includes information on what fishing, rec-
17 reational boating, and other related recreational ac-
18 tivities are authorized in each such area.

19 (b) DATA ON NAVIGATION WITHIN EXCLUSIVE ECO-
20 NOMIC ZONE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall continue
22 to make available digitized geographic information
23 system data that includes, with respect to access to
24 the exclusive economic zone—

25 (A) navigation information;

- 1 (B) bathymetric information;
2 (C) depth charts; and
3 (D) other information, consistent with law
4 and policy.

5 (2) WEBSITE.—The Secretary shall, to the ex-
6 tent practicable, make the data described in para-
7 graph (1) available on the website on which the Sec-
8 retary makes the data described in subsection (a)
9 available.

10 (c) DATA ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall en-
11 sure that the website on which the Secretary makes the
12 data described in subsections (a) and (b) available—

13 (1) organizes that data so that the data is
14 findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable; and

15 (2) includes a mechanism by which users can be
16 easily updated when new data becomes available.

17 (d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall de-
18 velop—

19 (1) a process to allow members of the public to
20 submit questions or comments regarding the data
21 described in subsections (a) and (b) and the accessi-
22 bility of that data under subsection (c); and

23 (2) methods to improve the accessibility of data.

24 (e) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall update—

- 1 (1) the data described in subsections (a)(1) and
2 (b) not less frequently than 2 times each year; and
3 (2) the data described in paragraphs (2) and
4 (3) of subsection (a) in real time.

5 (f) NONDISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—
6 The Secretary may not, consistent with applicable law and
7 policy, disclose, in any geographic information system data
8 made publicly available under this section—

9 (1) information regarding the nature, location,
10 character, or ownership of historic, paleontological,
11 cultural, or archaeological resources; or

12 (2) commercial fishing information, including
13 proprietary information.

14 (g) TREATMENT OF TRIBAL WATERS AND FISHING
15 AREAS.—The authorities granted by this section shall not
16 apply with respect to any usual or accustomed fishing
17 areas or Tribal waters.

18 **SEC. 5. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.**

19 (a) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THIRD-PARTY PRO-
20 VIDERS.—For purposes of carrying out this Act, the Sec-
21 retary may—

22 (1) coordinate and partner with non-Federal
23 entities, including—

24 (A) States;

1 (B) Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian orga-
2 nizations, and Tribal organizations;

3 (C) interstate commissions (as defined in
4 section 303 of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries
5 Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4102));

6 (D) Regional Ocean Partnerships (as de-
7 fined in section 10202 of the James M. Inhofe
8 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
9 Year 2023 (16 U.S.C. 1468));

10 (E) experts in data science, analytics, and
11 operations research;

12 (F) the private sector, including technology
13 or geospatial data industries;

14 (G) nonprofit organizations; and

15 (H) institutions of higher education (as de-
16 fined in section 201 of the Higher Education
17 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

18 (2) enter into agreements with experts within
19 entities described in any of subparagraphs (A)
20 through (H) of paragraph (1) to carry out any of
21 the provisions of this Act.

22 (b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Secretary
23 shall, to the maximum extent practicable, work with the
24 relevant offices of the Department of the Interior, the De-
25 partment of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, the

1 Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection
2 Agency, the Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers,
3 and the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal
4 Mapping codified by section 12203 of the Ocean and
5 Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C. 3502), to en-
6 sure compatibility and interoperability among applicable
7 Federal databases with respect to the collection and dis-
8 semination of geospatial data relating to public outdoor
9 recreational use of the exclusive economic zone.

10 (c) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND TRIB-
11 AL LAW AND REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, in devel-
12 oping and distributing geospatial data under this Act,
13 shall make clear that the data are subject to applicable
14 laws and regulations of the Federal Government, States,
15 and Indian Tribes.

16 **SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

17 Nothing in this Act may be construed—

18 (1) to modify or alter the definition of the term
19 “navigable waters” under any provision of Federal
20 law;

21 (2) to affect the jurisdiction or authority of
22 Federal or State agencies to regulate navigable
23 waters;

1 (3) to increase or diminish the responsibility or
2 authority of Federal or State agencies or Indian
3 Tribes to manage fisheries under existing law;

4 (4) to satisfy any requirement for government-
5 to-government consultation with Indian Tribes or
6 Native Hawaiian organizations; or

7 (5) to affect or modify any treaty or other right
8 of any Indian Tribe.

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