EN BLOC AMENDMENT THE RULES COMMITTEE
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OFFERED BY MR. YOUNG OF ALASKA

Page 46, strike lines 5 through 9 and insert the following:

“(4) The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, when hiring individuals to collect information regarding marine recreational fishing under this subsection, give preference to students studying fisheries conservation and management, water resource issues, or other relevant subjects at an institution of higher education in the United States.”.

Page 46, beginning at line 19, strike “Regional Fishery” and all that follows through line 22 and insert “the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council on criteria that”.

Page 47, after line 22, insert the following:

8 SEC. ___. REQUIREMENTS FOR LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGES.
9
10 Section 3303A(e)(1)(G) (16 U.S.C. 1853a(e)(1)(G))
11 is amended to read as follows:
“(G) include provisions for a formal and detailed review 5 years after the implementation of the program, and thereafter the regular monitoring and review by the Council and the Secretary of the operations and impacts of the program, to coincide with scheduled Council review of the relevant fishery management plan (but no less frequently than once every 7 years) including—

“(i) determining progress in meeting the goals of the program and this Act;

“(ii) delineating the positive and negative economic effects of the program on fishermen and processors who are part of the program and the coastal communities in which they reside; and

“(iii) any necessary modification of the program to meet those goals, including a formal schedule for action to be taken within 2 years;”.

SEC. ___. HEALTHY FISHERIES THROUGH BETTER SCIENCE.

(a) Definition of Stock Assessment.—Section 3 (16 U.S.C. 1802), as amended by section 23(a) of this Act, is further amended by redesignating the paragraphs
after paragraph (42) in order as paragraphs (44) through (53), and by inserting after paragraph (42) the following:

“(43) The term ‘stock assessment’ means an evaluation of the past, present, and future status of a stock of fish, that includes—

“(A) a range of life history characteristics for such stock, including—

“(i) the geographical boundaries of such stock; and

“(ii) information on age, growth, natural mortality, sexual maturity and reproduction, feeding habits, and habitat preferences of such stock; and

“(B) fishing for the stock.”.

(b) STOCK ASSESSMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 404 (16 U.S.C. 1881c), as amended by section 10(d) of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) STOCK ASSESSMENT PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and publish in the Federal Register, on the same schedule as required for the strategic plan required under subsection (b) of this section, a plan to conduct stock assessments for all stocks of fish for
which a fishery management plan is in effect under
this Act.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The plan shall—

“(A) for each stock of fish for which a
stock assessment has previously been con-
ducted—

“(i) establish a schedule for updating
the stock assessment that is reasonable
given the biology and characteristics of the
stock; and

“(ii) subject to the availability of ap-
propriations, require completion of a new
stock assessment, or an update of the most
recent stock assessment—

“(I) every 5 years; or

“(II) within such other time pe-
period specified and justified by the Sec-
retary in the plan;

“(B) for each stock of fish for which a
stock assessment has not previously been con-
ducted—

“(i) establish a schedule for con-
ducting an initial stock assessment that is
reasonable given the biology and character-
istics of the stock; and
“(ii) subject to the availability of appropriations, require completion of the initial stock assessment within 3 years after the plan is published in the Federal Register unless another time period is specified and justified by the Secretary in the plan; and

“(C) identify data and analysis, especially concerning recreational fishing, that, if available, would reduce uncertainty in and improve the accuracy of future stock assessments, including whether such data and analysis could be provided by fishermen, fishing communities, universities, and research institutions.

“(3) WAIVER OF STOCK ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A)(ii) and (B)(ii), a stock assessment is not required for a stock of fish in the plan if the Secretary determines that such a stock assessment is not necessary and justifies such determination in the Federal Register notice required by this subsection.”.

(2) DEADLINE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of section 404(f) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by this section, the Secretary of Commerce shall
issue the first stock assessment plan under such sec-
tion by not later than 2 years after the date of en-
actment of this Act.

(c) IMPROVING SCIENCE.—

(1) INCORPORATION OF INFORMATION FROM WIDE VARIETY OF SOURCES.—Section 2(a)(8) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Man-
agement Act (16 U.S.C. 1801) is amended by add-
ing at the end the following: “Fisheries management is most effective when it incorporates information provided by governmental and nongovernmental sources, including State and Federal agency staff, fishermen, fishing communities, universities, and re-
search institutions. As appropriate, such information should be considered the best scientific information available and form the basis of conservation and management measures as required by this Act.”.

(2) IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION AND ANAL-
YSIS.—Section 404 (16 U.S.C. 1881c), as amended by this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION AND ANAL-
YSIS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
tion with the Councils acting in reliance on their
science and statistical committees established under section 302(g), shall develop and publish in the Federal Register guidelines that will facilitate greater incorporation of data, analysis, and stock assessments from nongovernmental sources, including fishermen, fishing communities, universities, and research institutions, into fisheries management decisions.

“(2) CONTENT.—The guidelines shall—

“(A) identify types of data and analysis, especially concerning recreational fishing, that can be reliably used as the basis for establishing conservation and management measures as required by section 303(a)(1), including setting standards for the collection and use of such data and analysis in stock assessments and for other purposes; and

“(B) provide specific guidance for collecting data and performing analyses identified as necessary to reduce the uncertainty referred to in section 404(f)(2)(C).

“(3) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DATA AND ANALYSES.—The Secretary and Regional Fishery Management Councils shall—
“(A) use all data and analyses that meet the guidelines published under paragraph (1) as the best scientific information available for purposes of this Act in fisheries management decisions, unless otherwise determined by the science and statistical committee of the Councils established pursuant to section 302(g) of the Act; and

“(B) explain in the Federal Register notice announcing the fishery management decision how such data and analyses have been used to establish conservation and management measures.”.

(3) DEADLINE.—The Secretary of Commerce shall develop and publish guidelines under the amendment made by paragraph (2) by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) COST REDUCTION REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Regional Fishery Management Councils, shall submit a report to Congress that, with respect to each fishery governed by a fishery management plan in effect under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)—
(1) identifies the goals of the applicable programs governing monitoring and enforcement of fishing that is subject to such plan;

(2) identifies methods to accomplish those goals, including human observers, electronic monitoring, and vessel monitoring systems;

(3) certifies which such methods are most cost-effective for fishing that is subject to such plan; and

(4) explains why such most-cost-effective methods are not required, if applicable.