

119TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 1917

AN ACT

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,

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2	This Act may be cited as the "Great Lakes Mass					
3	Marking Program Act of 2025".					
4	SEC. 2. FINDINGS.					
5	Congress finds that—					
6	(1) the Great Lakes have experienced rapid					
7	changes in recent years due to—					
8	(A) the introduction of multiple aquation					
9	invasive species;					
10	(B) alterations in the food web; and					
11	(C) decreases in the abundance of prey					
12	species;					
13	(2) due to rapid biological change in the Great					
14	Lakes, the Great Lakes need a collaborative, science-					
15	based program to assist in making management ac-					
16	tions regarding fish stocking rates, the rehabilitation					
17	of important fish species, and habitat restoration;					
18	(3) the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan					
19	Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Wis					
20	consin and Indian Tribes in those States, working					
21	through the Council of Lake Committees of the					
22	Great Lakes Fishery Commission, have identified					
23	that mass marking is—					
24	(A) a precise tool to keep hatchery-pro-					
25	duced fish in balance with wild fish; and					

1	(B) essential to achieving fishery manage-					
2	ment and research objectives through producing					
3	a better understanding of—					
4	(i) the quantity of hatchery produced					
5	fish compared to wild fish in the Great					
6	Lakes;					
7	(ii) the effectiveness of hatchery oper-					
8	ations; and					
9	(iii) the effectiveness of fishery man-					
10	agement actions;					
11	(4) the mass marking program of the United					
12	States Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great					
13	Lakes—					
14	(A) was initiated in 2010 on a limited					
15	scale;					
16	(B) annually tags approximately 9,000,000					
17	to 11,000,000 of the hatchery-produced fish					
18	stocked in the Great Lakes;					
19	(C) is a basinwide cooperative effort					
20	among the United States Fish and Wildlife					
21	Service, Indian Tribes, and State management					
22	agencies; and					
23	(D) produces data used by State and Trib-					
24	al fish management agencies to make manage-					
25	ment decisions regarding Great Lakes fisheries;					

1	(5) annually, Federal, State, and Tribal agen-						
2	cies stock approximately 21,000,000 hatchery-pro-						
3	duced fish in the Great Lakes to support—						
4	(A) native species recovery; and						
5	(B) recreational and commercial fishing;						
6	(6) mass marking of hatchery-produced fis						
7	using automated technology, is an efficient method						
8	of implementing a collaborative, science-based fish						
9	ery program; and						
10	(7) the Great Lakes are an important and va						
11	ued resource that—						
12	(A) supports a robust regional economy						
13	valued at more than \$7,000,000,000; and						
14	(B) provides stability to the economy of						
15	the United States.						
16	SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.						
17	In this Act:						
18	(1) Director.—The term "Director" means						
19	the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife						
20	Service.						
21	(2) Program.—The term "Program" means						
22	the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program established						
23	by section 4(a).						

SEC. 4. GREAT LAKES MASS MARKING PROGRAM.

- 2 (a) In General.—To assist in determining the effec-
- 3 tiveness of hatchery operations and fisheries management
- 4 actions and to support Great Lakes fisheries, there is es-
- 5 tablished within the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
- 6 ice a program for the mass marking of hatchery-produced
- 7 fish in the Great Lakes basin, to be known as the "Great
- 8 Lakes Mass Marking Program".
- 9 (b) AUTHORIZED ACTIONS.—In carrying out the Pro-
- 10 gram, the Director may—
- 11 (1) purchase capital and expendable equipment,
- fish tags, and other items necessary to support and
- carry out tagging and tag recovery operations, in-
- 14 cluding data processing and data dissemination re-
- lating to those operations; and
- 16 (2) hire additional personnel, as necessary.
- 17 (c) REQUIRED COLLABORATION.—In carrying out
- 18 the Program, the Director shall collaborate with applicable
- 19 Federal, State, and Tribal fish management agencies, the
- 20 Council of Lake Committees of the Great Lakes Fishery
- 21 Commission, and signatories to the Joint Strategic Plan
- 22 for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries.
- 23 (d) Availability of Data.—The Director shall
- 24 make the data collected under the Program available to
- 25 applicable Federal, State, and Tribal fish management
- 26 agencies—

1	(1) to increase the understanding of the out-					
2	comes of management action;					
3	(2) to assist in meeting the restoration objec-					
4	tives of the Great Lakes, including the fish commu-					
5	nity objectives and fish management plans described					
6	in the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of					
7	Great Lakes Fisheries;					
8	(3) to assist in balancing predators and prey;					
9	(4) to support and improve the economic status					
10	of Tribal, recreational, and commercial fisheries; and					
11	(5) to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of					
12	habitat restoration efforts in the Great Lakes.					
13	SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.					
14	There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out					
15	the Program \$2,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2026					
16	through 2030.					
	Passed the House of Representatives July 22, 2025.					

Passed the House of Representatives July 22, 2025. Attest:

Clerk.

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