

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 496

To preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, 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 preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen, 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 “Young Fishermen’s  
5       Development Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

1           (1) SEA GRANT INSTITUTION.—The term “Sea  
2       Grant Institution” means a sea grant college or sea  
3       grant institute, as those terms are defined in section  
4       203 of the National Sea Grant College Program Act  
5       (33 U.S.C. 1122).

6           (2) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “Tribal  
7       organization” has the meaning given the term “trib-  
8       al organization” in section 4 of the Indian Self-De-  
9       termination and Education Assistance Act (25  
10      U.S.C. 5304).

11          (3) YOUNG FISHERMAN.—The term “young  
12      fisherman” means an individual who—

13                (A) desires to participate in the commer-  
14                cial fisheries of the United States, including the  
15                Great Lakes fisheries;

16                (B) has worked as a captain, crew mem-  
17                ber, or deckhand on a commercial fishing vessel  
18                for not more than 10 years of cumulative serv-  
19                ice; or

20                (C) is a beginning commercial fisherman.

21   **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

22       The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Na-  
23      tional Sea Grant Office, shall establish a program to pro-  
24      vide training, education, outreach, and technical assist-  
25      ance initiatives for young fishermen, to be known as the

1 “Young Fishermen’s Development Grant Program” (re-  
 2 ferred to in this section as the “Program”).

3 **SEC. 4. GRANTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the  
 5 Secretary shall make competitive grants to support new  
 6 and established local and regional training, education, out-  
 7 reach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fisher-  
 8 men, including programs, workshops, and services relating  
 9 to—

10 (1) seamanship, navigation, electronics, and  
 11 safety;

12 (2) vessel and engine care, maintenance, and  
 13 repair;

14 (3) innovative conservation fishing gear engi-  
 15 neering and technology;

16 (4) sustainable fishing practices;

17 (5) entrepreneurship and good business prac-  
 18 tices;

19 (6) direct marketing, supply chain, and  
 20 traceability;

21 (7) financial and risk management, including  
 22 vessel, permit, and quota purchasing;

23 (8) State and Federal legal requirements for  
 24 specific fisheries, including reporting, monitoring, li-  
 25 censes, and regulations;

1           (9) State and Federal fisheries policy and man-  
2           agement;

3           (10) mentoring, apprenticeships, or internships;  
4           and

5           (11) any other activities, opportunities, or pro-  
6           grams, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

7           (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

8           (1) APPLICANTS.—To be eligible to receive a  
9           grant under the Program, a recipient shall be a col-  
10          laborative State, Tribal, local, or regionally based  
11          network or partnership of public or private entities,  
12          which may include—

13                (A) a Sea Grant Institution;

14                (B) a Federal or State agency or a Tribal  
15                organization;

16                (C) a community-based nongovernmental  
17                organization;

18                (D) fishermen’s cooperatives or associa-  
19                tions;

20                (E) an institution of higher education (in-  
21                cluding an institution awarding an associate’s  
22                degree), or a foundation maintained by an insti-  
23                tution of higher education; or

24                (F) any other appropriate entity, as the  
25                Secretary determines appropriate.

1           (2) PARTICIPANTS.—All young fishermen seek-  
2           ing to participate in the commercial fisheries of the  
3           United States and the Great Lakes are eligible to  
4           participate in the activities funded through grants  
5           provided for in this section, except that participants  
6           in such activities shall be selected by each grant re-  
7           cipient.

8           (c) MAXIMUM TERM AND AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section  
10          shall—

11                 (A) have a term of no more than 3 fiscal  
12          years; and

13                 (B) be in an amount that is not more than  
14          \$200,000 for each fiscal year.

15          (2) CONSECUTIVE GRANTS.—An eligible recipi-  
16          ent may receive consecutive grants under this sec-  
17          tion.

18          (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible to re-  
19          ceive a grant under this section, a recipient shall provide  
20          a match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions from  
21          the recipient in the amount equal to or greater than 25  
22          percent of the funds provided by the grant.

23          (e) REGIONAL BALANCE.—In making grants under  
24          this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent  
25          practicable, ensure geographic diversity.

1 (f) COOPERATION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In  
 2 carrying out this section and in developing criteria for  
 3 evaluating grant applications, the Secretary shall consult,  
 4 to the maximum extent practicable, with—

5 (1) Sea Grant Institutions and extension agents  
 6 of such institutions;

7 (2) community-based nongovernmental fishing  
 8 organizations;

9 (3) Federal and State agencies, including Re-  
 10 gional Fishery Management Councils established  
 11 under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation  
 12 and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.);

13 (4) institutions of higher education with fish-  
 14 eries expertise and programs; and

15 (5) partners, as the Secretary determines.

16 (g) PROHIBITION.—A grant under this section may  
 17 not be used to purchase any fishing license, permit, quota,  
 18 or other harvesting right.

19 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

20 Of the amount made available to the Secretary of  
 21 Commerce under section 311(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens  
 22 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.  
 23 1861(e)) for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2024, the

- 1 Secretary shall use \$2,000,000 to carry out section 4 of
- 2 this Act.

