

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2293

To require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2025

Mr. EZELL (for himself, Mr. GUEST, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

---

## A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities.

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 “Cormorant Relief Act  
5 of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. REGULATIONS RELATING TO TAKING OF DOUBLE-**  
2 **CRESTED CORMORANTS AT AQUACULTURE**  
3 **FACILITIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reissue the  
5 original depredation order in accordance with subsection  
6 (b).

7 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The depredation order re-  
8 issued under subsection (a) shall be the same as the origi-  
9 nal depredation order, except that the depredation order  
10 reissued under subsection (a)—

11 (1) shall apply to each of the States of Cali-  
12 fornia, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana,  
13 Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Penn-  
14 sylvania, and Wisconsin in addition to and in the  
15 same manner as each of the States to which the  
16 original depredation order applied; and

17 (2) shall apply to lake managers and pond man-  
18 agers in addition to and in the same manner as each  
19 of the entities to which the original depredation  
20 order applied.

21 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) LAKE MANAGER.—The term “lake man-  
23 ager” means a person that is licensed by a State  
24 regulatory agency to manage a private lake.

25 (2) ORIGINAL DEPREDATION ORDER.—The  
26 term “original depredation order” means the depre-

1        dation order for double-crested cormorants at aqua-  
2        culture facilities contained in section 21.47 of title  
3        50, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on  
4        January 1, 2016).

5            (3) POND MANAGER.—The term “pond man-  
6        ager” means a person that is licensed by a State  
7        regulatory agency to manage a private pond.

8            (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
9        the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-  
10       rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
11       ice.

○