

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6693

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish expedited permitting procedures for post-natural disaster recovery activities, incorporating interagency coordination and best management practices to ensure timely rebuilding while protecting endangered species, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 12, 2025

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. EDWARDS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish expedited permitting procedures for post-natural disaster recovery activities, incorporating interagency coordination and best management practices to ensure timely rebuilding while protecting endangered species, 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 “Streamlining Author-
5 izations for Listed At-risk Marine and Aquatic Natural

1 Disaster Emergency Resources Act” or the “SALA-
2 MANDER Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Natural disasters cause significant damage
6 to communities and infrastructure, requiring rapid
7 and efficient recovery efforts.

8 (2) Timely repair and restoration of damaged
9 property and assets after a natural disaster are es-
10 sential for public safety, economic stability, and the
11 swift return of private property to rightful owners.

12 (3) The Corps of Engineers nationwide permit
13 program serves as an efficient mechanism for man-
14 aging activities that involve discharges into and re-
15 habilitation of waters of the United States, as de-
16 fined in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

17 (4) The Endangered Species Act of 1973 re-
18 quires Federal agencies to consult with the Directors
19 of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and
20 the National Marine Fisheries Service, as applicable,
21 to avoid actions that could jeopardize listed species
22 or critical habitats of such species.

23 (5) While environmental protection is critical,
24 current consultation processes can sometimes con-
25 tribute to delays in post-disaster recovery.

Section 404(e) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For any geographic area with respect to which the President has declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) that a major disaster or emergency exists, the Secretary may issue or modify a general permit under this subsection for any category of activities—

1 “(i) the Secretary develops pursuant
2 to a programmatic consultation with the
3 Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of
4 Commerce, and Secretary of Agriculture,
5 as applicable, under section 7(a)(2) of the
6 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
7 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)); and

8 “(ii) which activities—

9 “(I) are directly related to recov-
10 ering from the major disaster or
11 emergency; and

12 “(II) the Secretary of the Inte-
13 rior, Secretary of Commerce, and Sec-
14 retary of Agriculture, as applicable,
15 have determined through such pro-
16 grammatic consultation will avoid or
17 minimize adverse effects on any spe-
18 cies listed as a threatened species or
19 an endangered species under section 4
20 of the Endangered Species Act of
21 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) and the crit-
22 ical habitat (as such term is defined
23 in section 3 of the Endangered Spe-
24 cies Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532)) of
25 such a species when adhering to best

1 management practices described in
2 subparagraph (B).

3 “(B) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.—A
4 general permit issued or modified under this
5 paragraph shall require the use of best manage-
6 ment practices that have been—

7 “(i) agreed upon by the Secretary
8 and, as applicable, the Secretary of the In-
9 terior, Secretary of Commerce, and Sec-
10 retary of Agriculture; and

11 “(ii) designed to avoid or minimize
12 adverse effects on species listed as threat-
13 ened species or endangered species under
14 section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of
15 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) and the critical
16 habitat (as such term is defined in section
17 3 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973
18 (16 U.S.C. 1532)) of such species.

19 “(C) PERIOD.—A general permit, or modi-
20 fication to a general permit, issued under this
21 paragraph shall be for the period of 18 months
22 beginning on the date of the declaration of the
23 major disaster or emergency by the President.

24 “(D) EFFECT ON INDIVIDUAL CONSULTA-
25 TION.—An activity authorized by a general per-

1 mit issued or modified under this paragraph
2 and carried out in accordance with the require-
3 ments of such general permit is not subject to
4 section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act
5 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)).

6 “(E) COORDINATION WITH STATES.—The
7 Secretary shall coordinate with relevant State
8 fish and wildlife agencies in carrying out this
9 paragraph, including by engaging with such
10 agencies not later than 30 days after the date
11 of a declaration of a major disaster or emer-
12 gency by the President.

13 “(F) NATIONAL GUIDANCE.—The Sec-
14 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of the
15 Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the
16 Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish guid-
17 ance to ensure consistent implementation of
18 this paragraph across each district of the Corps
19 of Engineers.”.

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