

Public Law 119–62
119th Congress

An Act

To provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes.

Dec. 26, 2025
[H.R. 187]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Modernizing Access to our Public Waters Act of 2025” or the “MAPWaters Act of 2025”.

Modernizing
Access to our
Public Waters
Act of 2025.
16 USC 6871
note.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

16 USC 6871.

In this Act:

(1) **FEDERAL FISHING RESTRICTION.**—The term “Federal fishing restriction” means a defined area in which all or certain fishing activities are temporarily or permanently prohibited or restricted by a Federal land or water management agency.

(2) **FEDERAL LAND OR WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY.**—The term “Federal land or water management agency” means—

- (A) the Bureau of Reclamation;
- (B) the National Park Service;
- (C) the Bureau of Land Management;
- (D) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and
- (E) the Forest Service.

(3) **FEDERAL WATERWAY.**—The term “Federal waterway” means waters managed by 1 or more of the relevant Secretaries.

(4) **FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTION.**—The term “Federal waterway restriction” means a restriction on the access or use of a Federal waterway applied under applicable law by 1 or more of the Secretaries.

(5) **SECRETARIES.**—The term “Secretaries” means—

- (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and
- (B) the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each territory of the United States.

SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY DATA STANDARDIZATION.

Deadline.
16 USC 6872.

Not later than 30 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination with the Federal Geographic Data Committee established by section 753(a) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (43 U.S.C. 2802(a)), shall jointly develop and adopt interagency standards to ensure compatibility and interoperability among applicable Federal databases with respect to the

collection and dissemination of geospatial data relating to public outdoor recreational access of Federal waterways and Federal fishing restrictions.

16 USC 6873.

Deadline.
Public
information.
Web posting.

SEC. 4. DATA CONSOLIDATION AND PUBLICATION.

(a) **FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTIONS.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable, shall digitize and make publicly available online, as applicable, geographic information system data that includes, with respect to Federal waterway restrictions—

(1) status information with respect to the conditions under which Federal waterways are open or closed to entry or watercraft, including watercraft inspection, decontamination requirements, low-elevation aircraft, or diving;

(2) the dates on which Federal waterways are seasonally closed to entry or watercraft;

(3) the areas of Federal waterways with restrictions on motorized propulsion, horsepower, or fuel type;

(4) the areas of Federal waterways with anchoring restrictions, no wake zones, exclusion zones, danger areas, or vessel speed restrictions;

(5) Federal waterway restrictions on the direction of travel, including upstream or downstream travel; and

(6) the uses, including by watercraft, that are restricted on each area of a Federal waterway, including the permissibility of—

(A) canoes and other paddlecraft;

(B) rafts and driftboats;

(C) motorboats;

(D) personal watercraft;

(E) airboats;

(F) amphibious aircraft;

(G) hovercraft;

(H) oversnow vehicles and other motorized vehicles on frozen bodies of water;

(I) oceangoing ships;

(J) swimming; and

(K) other applicable recreational activities, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretaries.

(b) **FEDERAL WATERWAY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION INFORMATION.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable, shall digitize and make publicly available online, as applicable, geographic information system data that includes, with respect to Federal waterway access and navigation information—

(1)(A) the location of boat ramps, portages, and fishing access sites under the authority of the Federal land or water management agency; and

(B) the identification of the dates on which the facilities and sites identified under subparagraph (A) are open or closed, as applicable; and

(2) bathymetric information and depth charts, as feasible.

(c) **FEDERAL FISHING RESTRICTIONS.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable, shall digitize and make publicly available online geographic information system data that describes, with respect to Federal fishing restrictions—

Deadline.
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(1) the location and geographic boundaries of Federal fishing restrictions on recreational and commercial fishing, including—

(A) full or partial closures;

(B) no-take zones; and

(C) Federal fishing restrictions within or surrounding marine protected areas;

(2) Federal fishing restrictions on the use of specific types of equipment or bait; and

(3) Federal requirements with respect to catch and release.

(d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretaries shall develop a process to allow members of the public to submit questions or comments regarding the information described in subsections (a) and (b).

(e) UPDATES.—The Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable, shall update—

(1) the data described in subsections (a) and (b) not less frequently than 2 times per year; and Time period.

(2) the data described in subsection (c) in real time as changes go into effect.

(f) EXCLUSION.—This section shall not apply to irrigation canals and flowage easements.

(g) DISCLOSURE.—Any geographic information system data made publicly available under this section shall not disclose information regarding the nature, location, character, or ownership of historic, paleontological, or archaeological resources, consistent with applicable law.

SEC. 5. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.

16 USC 6874.

(a) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—For purposes of carrying out this Act, the Secretaries may—

(1) coordinate and partner with non-Federal agencies and private sector and nonprofit partners, including—

(A) State natural resource agencies;

(B) Tribal natural resource agencies;

(C) technology companies;

(D) geospatial data companies; and

(E) experts in data science, analytics, and operations research; and

(2) enter into an agreement with a third party to carry out any provision of this Act.

(b) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—The Secretaries may work with the Director of the United States Geological Survey to collect, aggregate, digitize, standardize, and publish data on behalf of the Secretaries to meet the requirements of this Act.

(c) REQUIREMENT.—With respect to data developed and distributed under this Act, the Secretaries shall—

(1) develop the data in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and Tribal laws (including regulations); and

(2) include a notice that any geospatial data are subject to applicable Federal, State, and Tribal laws (including regulations). Notice.

(d) EXISTING EFFORTS.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary concerned shall use or incorporate existing applicable data, maps, and resources in carrying out this Act, including data, maps, and resources developed and published under—

(1) the Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act (16 U.S.C. 6851 et seq.);

- (2) section 103 of division DD of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (43 U.S.C. 776); or
- (3) other applicable law.

16 USC 6875.

SEC. 6. REPORTS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter through March 30, 2034, the Secretaries shall submit a report that describes the progress made by the Secretaries with respect to meeting the requirements of this Act to—

- (1) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;
- (2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;
- (3) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;
- (4) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and
- (5) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

16 USC 6876.

SEC. 7. EFFECT.

Nothing in this Act—

- (1) modifies or alters the definition of the term “navigable waters” under Federal law;
- (2) affects the jurisdiction or authority of State or Federal agencies to regulate navigable waters;
- (3) modifies or alters the authority or jurisdiction of Federal or State agencies to manage fisheries; or
- (4) authorizes or is intended to result in a change in the accessibility of waters open to hunting, fishing, or other forms of outdoor recreation as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

Approved December 26, 2025.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 187:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 171 (2025):
Jan. 21, considered and passed House.
Dec. 16, considered and passed Senate.

