Public Law 91-135

AN ACT

To prevent the importation of endangered species of fish or wildlife into the United States; to prevent the interstate shipment of reptiles, amphibians, and other wildlife taken contrary to State law; and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, for the purposes of sections 2 through 5 of this Act, the term—

(1) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior;

(2) "fish or wildlife" means any wild mammal, fish, wild bird, amphibian, reptile, mollusk, or crustacean, or any part, products, egg, or offspring thereof, or the dead body or parts thereof;

(3) "United States" includes the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and Guam; and

(4) "person" means any individual, firm, corporation, association, or partnership.

Sec. 2. Except as provided in section 5 of this Act, whoever imports from any foreign country into the United States any species or subspecies of fish or wildlife which the Secretary has determined, in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of this Act, to be threatened with worldwide extinction, shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of this Act.

Sec. 3. (a) A species or subspecies of fish or wildlife shall be deemed to be threatened with worldwide extinction whenever the Secretary determines, based on the best scientific and commercial data available to him and after consultation, in cooperation with the Secretary of State, with the foreign country or countries in which such fish or wildlife are normally found and, to the extent practicable, with interested persons and organizations and other interested Federal agencies, that the continued existence of such species or subspecies of fish or wildlife is, in the judgment of the Secretary, endangered due to any of the following factors: (1) the destruction, drastic modification, or severe curtailment, or the threatened destruction, drastic modification, or severe curtailment, of its habitat, or (2) its overutilization for commercial or sporting purposes, or (3) the effect on it of disease or predation, or (4) other natural or man-made factors affecting its continued existence. After making such determination, the Secretary shall promulgate and from time to time may revise, by regulation, a list in the Federal Register of such fish or wildlife by scientific, common, and commercial name or names, together with his determination. The Secretary shall at least once every five years conduct a thorough review of any such list to determine what, if any, changes have occurred relative to the continued existence of the species or subspecies of fish or wildlife then on the list and to determine whether such fish or wildlife continue to be threatened with worldwide extinction. Upon completion of such review, he shall take appropriate action consistent with the purposes of this Act. The Secretary shall, upon the request of any interested person, also conduct such review of any particular listed species or subspecies at any other time if he finds and publishes his finding that such person has presented substantial evidence to warrant such a review.

(b) In order to minimize undue economic hardship to any person importing any species or subspecies of fish or wildlife which are determined to be threatened with worldwide extinction under this section, under any contract entered into prior to the date of publication of such determination in the Federal Register of such species or subspecies, the
Secretary, upon such person filing an application with him and upon filing such information as the Secretary may require showing, to his satisfaction, such hardship, shall permit such person to import such species or subspecies in such quantities and for such periods, not to exceed one year, as he determines to be appropriate.

(c) The Secretary may permit, under such terms and conditions as he may prescribe, the importation of any species or subspecies of fish or wildlife listed in the Federal Register under this section for zoological, educational, and scientific purposes, and for the propagation of such fish or wildlife in captivity for preservation purposes, unless such importation is prohibited by any other Federal law or regulation.

(d) The provisions of section 553 of title 5 of the United States Code shall apply to any regulation issued under this section.

Sec. 4. (a) (1) Any person who violates any provision of section 2 or 3 of this Act or any regulation or permit issued thereunder, or any regulation issued under subsection (d) of this section, other than a violation the penalty for which is prescribed by subsection (b) of this section, shall be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary of not more than $5,000 for each such violation. No penalty shall be assessed unless such person is given notice and opportunity for a hearing with respect to such violation. Each violation shall be a separate offense. Any such civil penalty may be compromised by the Secretary. Upon any failure to pay the penalty assessed under this paragraph, the Secretary may request the Attorney General to institute a civil action in a district court of the United States for any district in which such person is found or resides or transacts business to collect the penalty and such court shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide any such action. In hearing such action, the court shall have authority to review the violation and the assessment of the civil penalty de novo.

(2) Any employee authorized pursuant to subsection (c) of this section to enforce the provisions of sections 2 and 3 of this Act, and any regulations or permits issued pursuant thereto or pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, shall have authority, in addition to any other authority provided by law relating to search and seizure, to execute any warrant to search for and seize any fish or wildlife or property or items taken, used, or possessed in connection with any violation of any such section, regulation, or permit with respect to which a civil penalty may be assessed pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection. Such fish, wildlife, property, or item so seized shall be held by any employee authorized by the Secretary or the Secretary of the Treasury pending disposition of proceedings by the Secretary involving the assessment of a civil penalty pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection; except that the Secretary may, in lieu of holding such fish, wildlife, property, or item, permit such person to post a bond or other surety satisfactory to the Secretary. Upon the assessment of a civil penalty pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection for any nonwillful violation of any such section, regulation, or permit, such fish wildlife, property, or item so seized may be proceeded against in any court of competent jurisdiction and forfeited to the Secretary for disposition by him in such manner as he deems appropriate. The owner or consignee of any such fish, wildlife, property, or item so seized shall, as soon as practicable following such seizure, be notified of that fact in accordance with regulations established by the Secretary or the Secretary of the Treasury. Whenever any fish or wildlife or property or item is seized pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall move to dispose of the civil penalty proceedings pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection as expeditiously as possible. If, with respect to any such fish, wildlife, property, or item so seized no action is commenced in any court of competent jurisdiction to obtain the
forfeiture of such fish, wildlife, property, or item within thirty days following the disposition of proceedings involving the assessment of a civil penalty, such fish, wildlife, property, or item shall be immediately returned to the owner or the consignee in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary.

(b) Any person who willfully violates any provision of section 2 or 3 of this Act or any regulation or permit issued thereunder or any regulation issued under subsection (d) of this section shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than $10,000, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

(c) The provisions of sections 2 and 3 of this Act and any regulations or permits issued pursuant thereto or pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall be enforced by either the Secretary or the Secretary of the Treasury, or both such Secretaries. Either Secretary may utilize, by agreement, the personnel, services, and facilities of any other Federal agency or any State agency. Any employee of the Department of the Interior or the Department of the Treasury authorized by the Secretary or the Secretary of the Treasury may, without a warrant, arrest any person who such employee has probable cause to believe is willfully violating, in his presence or view, any such section, or any regulation or permit issued thereunder, the penalty for which is provided under subsection (b) of this section, and may execute a warrant or other process issued by an officer or court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of such sections, regulations or permits. An employee who has made an arrest of a person in connection with any such willful violation may search such person at the time of his arrest and seize any fish or wildlife or property or items taken, used, or possessed in connection with any such violation, or any such employee shall have authority, in addition to any other authority provided by law relating to search and seizure, to execute any warrant to search for and seize any such fish, wildlife, property, or item so taken, used, or possessed. Any fish or wildlife or property or item seized shall be held by any employee authorized by the Secretary or the Secretary of the Treasury or by a United States marshal pending disposition of the case by the court, commissioner, or magistrate, except that the Secretary may, in lieu thereof, permit such person to post a bond or other surety satisfactory to him. Upon conviction, any (1) fish or wildlife seized shall be forfeited to the Secretary for disposal by him in such manner as he deems appropriate, and (2) any other property or items seized may, in the discretion of the court, commissioner, or magistrate, be forfeited to the United States or otherwise disposed of. The owner or consignee of any such fish, wildlife, property, or item so seized, shall, as soon as practicable following such seizure, be notified of that fact in accordance with regulations established by the Secretary or the Secretary of the Treasury. If no conviction results from any such alleged violation, such fish, wildlife, property or item so seized in connection therewith shall be immediately returned to the owner or consignee in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary, unless the Secretary, within thirty days following the final disposition of the case involving such violation, commences proceedings under subsection (a) of this section.

(d) For the purposes of facilitating enforcement of sections 2 and 3 of this Act and reducing the costs thereof, the Secretary, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, shall, after notice and an opportunity for a public hearing, from time to time designate, by regulation, any port or ports in the United States for the importation of fish and wildlife, other than shellfish and fishery products imported for commercial purposes, into the United States. The importation of
such fish or wildlife into any port in the United States, except those so designated, shall be prohibited after the effective date of such designations; except that the Secretary, under such terms and conditions as he may prescribe, may permit importation at nondenominated ports for movement to designated ports of entry. Such regulations may provide other exceptions to such prohibition if the Secretary deems it appropriate and consistent with the purposes of this subsection.

(e) In carrying out the provisions of sections 2 through 5 of this Act, the Secretary may issue such regulations as may be appropriate.

SEC. 5. (a) In carrying out the provisions of sections 2 and 3 of this Act, the Secretary, through the Secretary of State, shall encourage foreign countries to provide protection to species and subspecies of fish or wildlife threatened with worldwide extinction, to take measures to prevent any fish or wildlife from becoming threatened with extinction, and shall cooperate with such countries in providing technical assistance in developing and carrying out programs to provide such protection, and shall, through the Secretary of State, encourage bilateral and multilateral agreements with such countries for the protection, conservation, and propagation of fish or wildlife. The Secretary shall also encourage persons, taking directly or indirectly fish or wildlife in foreign countries for importation into the United States for commercial or other purposes, to develop and carry out, with such assistance as he may provide under any authority available to him, conservation practices designed to enhance such fish or wildlife and their habitat. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, shall take appropriate measures to encourage the development of adequate measures, including, if appropriate, international agreements, to prevent such fish or wildlife from becoming threatened with worldwide extinction.

(b) To assure the worldwide conservation of endangered species and to prevent competitive harm to affected United States industries, the Secretary, through the Secretary of State, shall seek the convening of an international ministerial meeting on fish and wildlife prior to June 30, 1971, and included in the business of that meeting shall be the signing of a binding international convention on the conservation of endangered species.

(c) There are authorized to be appropriated such sums, not to exceed $200,000, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, such sums to remain available until expended.


(b) Nothing in this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, shall be construed as superseding or limiting in any manner the functions of the Secretary of Agriculture under any other law relating to prohibited or restricted importations of animals and other articles and no proceeding or determination under this Act shall preclude any proceeding or be considered determinative of any issue of fact or law in any proceeding under any Act administered by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(c) Nothing in this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, shall be construed as superseding or limiting in any manner the functions and responsibilities of the Secretary of the Treasury under the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, including, without limitation, section 527 of said Act (19 U.S.C. 1527) relating to the importation of wildlife taken, killed, possessed or exported to the United States in violation of the laws or regulations of a foreign country.
SEC. 7. (a) Section 43 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 43. Transportation of wildlife taken in violation of State, National, or foreign laws; receipt; making false records

"(a) Any person who—

"(1) delivers, carries, transports, or ships, by any means whatever, or causes to be delivered, carried, transported, or shipped for commercial or noncommercial purposes or sells or causes to be sold any wildlife taken, transported, or sold in any manner in violation of any Act of Congress or regulation issued thereunder, or

"(2) delivers, carries, transports, or ships, by any means whatever, or causes to be delivered, carried, transported, or shipped for commercial or noncommercial purposes or sells or causes to be sold in interstate or foreign commerce any wildlife taken, transported, or sold in any manner in violation of any law or regulation of any State or foreign country; or

"(b) Any person who—

"(1) sells or causes to be sold any products manufactured, made, or processed from any wildlife taken, transported, or sold in any manner in violation of any Act of Congress or regulation issued thereunder, or

"(2) sells or causes to be sold in interstate or foreign commerce any products manufactured, made, or processed from any wildlife taken, transported, or sold in any manner in violation of any law or regulation of a State or a foreign country, or

"(3) having purchased or received wildlife imported from any foreign country or shipped, transported, or carried in interstate commerce, makes or causes to be made any false record, account, label, or identification thereof, or

"(4) receives, acquires, or purchases for commercial or noncommercial purposes any wildlife—

"(A) taken, transported, or sold in violation of any law or regulation of any State or foreign country and delivered, carried, transported, or shipped by any means or method in interstate or foreign commerce, or

"(B) taken, transported, or sold in violation of any Act of Congress or regulation issued thereunder, or

"(5) imports from Mexico to any State, or exports from any State to Mexico, any game mammal, dead or alive, or part or product thereof, except under permit or other authorization of the Secretary or, in accordance with any regulations prescribed by him, having due regard to the requirements of the Migratory Birds and Game Mammals Treaty with Mexico and the laws of the United States forbidding importation of certain live mammals injurious to agriculture and horticulture;

shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

"(c) (1) Any person who knowingly violates, or who, in the exercise of due care, should know that he is violating, any provision of subsection (a) or (b) of this section may be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary of not more than $5,000 for each such violation. Each violation shall be a separate offense. No penalty shall be assessed unless such person is given notice and opportunity for a hearing with respect to such violation. Any such civil penalty may be compromised by the Secretary. Upon any failure to pay the penalty assessed under this paragraph, the Secretary may request the Attorney General to institute a civil action in a district court of the United States to recover the same.

"(2) Any person who violates this subsection shall be subject to a fine of not more than $5,000 for each violation.
States for any district in which such person is found or resides or transacts business to collect the penalty and such court shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide any such action. In hearing such action, the court shall have authority to review the violation and the assessment of the civil penalty de novo.

(2) Any employee authorized by the Secretary to enforce the provisions of this section, or any officer of the customs, shall have authority to execute any warrant to search for and seize any wildlife, product, property, or item used or possessed in violation of this section with respect to which a civil penalty may be assessed pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection. Such wildlife, product, property, or item so seized shall be held by such employee pending disposition of proceedings by the Secretary involving the assessment of a civil penalty pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection; except that the Secretary may, in lieu of holding such wildlife, product, property, or item, permit such person to post a bond or other surety satisfactory to the Secretary. Upon the assessment of a civil penalty pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection for any nonwillful violation of this section, such wildlife, product, property, or item so seized may be proceeded against in any court of competent jurisdiction and forfeited to the Secretary for disposition by him in such manner as he deems appropriate. The owner or consignee of any such wildlife, product, property, or item so seized shall, as soon as practicable following such seizure, be notified of that fact in accordance with regulations established by the Secretary or the Secretary of the Treasury. Whenever any wildlife, product, property, or item is seized pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall move to dispose of the civil penalty proceedings pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection as expeditiously as possible. If, with respect to any such wildlife, product, property, or item so seized, no action is commenced in any court of competent jurisdiction to obtain the forfeiture of such wildlife, product, property, or item within thirty days following the disposition of proceedings involving the assessment of a civil penalty, such wildlife, product, property, or item shall be immediately returned to the owner or the consignee in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary.

“(d) Any person who knowingly and willfully violates any provision of subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

“(e) Any wildlife or products thereof seized in connection with any knowing and willful violation of this section with respect to which a penalty may be imposed pursuant to subsection (d) shall, upon conviction of such violation, be forfeited to the Secretary to be disposed of by him in such manner as he deems appropriate. Any other property or item so seized may upon conviction, in the discretion of the court, be forfeited to the United States or otherwise disposed of. The owner or consignee of any such wildlife, product, property, or item so seized shall, as soon as practicable following such seizure, be notified of that fact in accordance with regulations established by the Secretary or the Secretary of the Treasury. If no conviction results from any such alleged violation, such wildlife, product, property or item so seized in connection therewith shall be immediately returned to the owner or consignee in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary, unless the Secretary, within thirty days following the final disposition of the case involving such violation, commences proceedings under subsection (c) of this section.
"(f) For the purpose of this section, the term—
"(1) 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior;
"(2) 'person' means any individual, firm, corporation, association, or partnership;
"(3) 'wildlife' means any wild mammal, wild bird, amphibian, reptile, mollusk, or crustacean, or any part, egg, or offspring thereof, or the dead body or parts thereof, but does not include migratory birds for which protection is afforded under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended;
"(4) 'State' means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and Guam; and
"(5) 'taken' means captured, killed, collected, or otherwise possessed."

(b) Section 3054 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

"§ 3054. Officers' powers involving animals and birds
"Any employee authorized by the Secretary of the Interior to enforce sections 42, 43, and 44 of this title, and any officer of the customs, may arrest any person who violates section 42 or 44, or who such employee or officer of the customs has probable cause to believe is knowingly and willfully violating section 43, in his presence or view, and may execute any warrant or other process issued by an officer or court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of said sections."

(c) Section 3112 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

"§ 3112. Search warrants for seizure of animals, birds, or eggs
"Any employee authorized by the Secretary of the Interior to enforce sections 42, 43, and 44 of this title, and any officer of the customs, shall have authority to execute any warrant to search for and seize any wildlife, product, property, or item used or possessed in connection with a violation of section 42 or 44, or in connection with a knowing and willful violation of section 43, any such wildlife, product, property, or item so seized shall be held by him or by the United States marshal pending disposition thereof by the court."

Sec. 8. (a) The first paragraph in section 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by deleting "wild animals or birds, or the dead bodies or parts thereof," and inserting "any wild mammal, wild bird, amphibian, or reptile, or any mollusk or crustacean, or the dead body or parts or eggs thereof."

(b) Section 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof a new paragraph to read as follows:

"In any case where the marking, labeling, or tagging of a package under this section indicating in any way the contents thereof would create a significant possibility of theft of the package or its contents, the Secretary of the Interior may, upon request of the owner thereof or his agent or by regulation, provide some other reasonable means of notifying appropriate authorities of the contents of such packages."

Sec. 9. (a) Section 2 of the Black Bass Act (44 Stat. 576), as amended (16 U.S.C. 852), is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2. It shall be unlawful for any person—
"(1) to deliver or receive for transportation, or to transport, by any means whatsoever, in interstate or foreign commerce, any black bass and other fish, if such person knows or in the exercise of due care should know that (A) such delivery or transportation is contrary to the law of the State or any foreign country from which such black bass or other fish is found or transported, or is contrary to other applicable law, or (B) such black bass or other
fish has been either caught, killed, taken, sold, purchased, possessed, or transported, at any time, contrary to the law of the State or foreign country, in which it was caught, killed, taken, sold, purchased, or possessed, or from which it was transported, or contrary to other applicable law;

“(2) to purchase or receive any such black bass or other fish, if such person knows, or in the exercise of due care should know, that such bass or fish has been transported in violation of the provisions of this Act;

“(3) receiving any shipment of black bass or other fish transported in interstate or foreign commerce to make any false record or render a false account of the contents of such shipment, if such person knows, or in the exercise of due care should know, that such record or account is false. For the purposes of this section, the provisions of section 10 of title 18, United States Code, shall apply to the term ‘interstate or foreign commerce’.”

(b) Section 3 of the Black Bass Act (46 Stat. 846), as amended (16 U.S.C. 852a), is amended by deleting the comma after “commerce” and inserting therein “or foreign commerce”.

(c) Section 6(a) of the Black Bass Act (46 Stat. 846), as amended (16 U.S.C. 852d(a)), is amended by adding a new sentence at the end thereof to read as follows: “The provisions of this section and any regulations issued thereunder shall be enforced by personnel of the Secretary of the Interior, and he may utilize by agreement, with or without reimbursement, personnel, services, and facilities of other Federal agencies.”

(d) The first section of the Black Bass Act (46 Stat. 846), as amended (16 U.S.C. 851), is amended by inserting immediately before the period at the end thereof a comma and the following: “and the term ‘State’ means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and Guam”.

Sec. 10. The second paragraph of section 4 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 705), is hereby repealed.

Sec. 11. The provisions of sections 1 through 10 of this Act shall be effective one hundred and eighty days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Sec. 12. (a) Section 1 of the Act of October 15, 1966 (80 Stat. 926; 16 U.S.C. 668aa), is amended by adding new subsection at the end thereof to read as follows:

“(d) For the purpose of sections 1 through 3 of this Act, the term ‘fish and wildlife’ means any wild mammal, fish, wild bird, amphibian, reptile, mollusk, or crustacean.”

(b) The last sentence of section 2(c) of the Act of October 15, 1966 (80 Stat. 926; 16 U.S.C. 668bb(c)), is amended by changing the “$750,000” to “$2,500,000”.

(c) Section 2(d) of the Act of October 15, 1966 (80 Stat. 926; 16 U.S.C. 668bb(d)), is amended by adding a new sentence at the end thereof to read as follows: “The Secretary is authorized to acquire by purchase, donation, exchange, or otherwise any privately owned land, water, or interests therein within the boundaries of any area administered by him, for the purpose of conserving, protecting, restoring, or propagating any selected species of native fish and wildlife that are threatened with extinction and each such acquisition shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of law applicable to such area, and there is authorized to be appropriated annually for fiscal years 1970, 1971, and 1972 not to exceed $1,000,000 to carry out the provisions of this sentence.”
(d) The provisions of sections 1 through 5 of this Act and sections 1 through 3 of the Act of October 15, 1966 (80 Stat. 926; 16 U.S.C. 668aa-668cc), as amended by this section, shall hereinafter be cited as the "Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969".

(e) The second sentence of section 1(a) of the Act of October 15, 1966 (80 Stat. 926; 16 U.S.C. 668aa(a)), is amended by changing the comma after the word "extinction" to a period and deleting the remainder of the sentence.


Approved December 5, 1969.

Public Law 91-136

AN ACT
To amend section 336(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 336(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(c) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this title, no final hearing shall be held on any petition for naturalization nor shall any person be naturalized nor shall any certificate of naturalization be issued by any court within a period of thirty days after the filing of the petition for naturalization. The Attorney General may waive such period in an individual case if he finds that the waiver will be in the public interest."

Approved December 5, 1969.

Public Law 91-137

AN ACT
To extend for one year the authorization for research relating to fuels and vehicles under the provisions of the Clean Air Act.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first sentence of section 104(c) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 1857b-1(c)) is amended by striking out "and", and by striking out the period at the end thereof and inserting in lieu thereof ", and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1970, $45,000,000.".

Approved December 5, 1969.