

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4754

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a 12-month study of the effects of double-crested cormorants on commercial and recreational fish species, and to require the Secretary to prepare a long-term, comprehensive population management strategy for double-crested cormorants.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON (for himself, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. PICKERING, and Mr. CALLAHAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a 12-month study of the effects of double-crested cormorants on commercial and recreational fish species, and to require the Secretary to prepare a long-term, comprehensive population management strategy for double-crested cormorants.

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. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT STUDY AND**  
4               **MANAGEMENT STRATEGY.**

5       (a) STUDY AND REPORT.—



1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months  
2       after the date of the enactment of this section, the  
3       Secretary of the Interior shall—

4           (A) study over a 12-month period of cur-  
5       rent and projected effects of double-crested cor-  
6       morants on commercial and recreational fish  
7       species in the United States; and

8           (B) submit a report on the findings and  
9       conclusions of that study to the Committee on  
10      Resources of the House of Representatives and  
11      the Committee on Environment and Public  
12      Works of the Senate.

13          (2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include a re-  
14      view of the current state of scientific knowledge on  
15      this subject and identify gaps in that knowledge that  
16      need to be filled in order to develop a long-term  
17      strategy to address any impacts of double-crested  
18      cormorants on commercial and recreational fish spe-  
19      cies in the United States.

20          (b) LONG-TERM, COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT  
21      STRATEGY FOR DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS.—

22          (1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
23      rior, using amounts made available to carry out this  
24      subsection and after completion of the study under  
25      subsection (a), shall prepare a long-term, com-

prehensive population management strategy for double-crested cormorants in the United States.

(2) PARTICIPATION BY STATES.—The Secretary shall seek the participation of State fish and wildlife management agencies and State environmental agencies in the preparation of the strategy.

(3) OTHER PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION.—In preparing the strategy, the Secretary shall—

(A) provide an opportunity for public comment on the draft report;

(B) consult with the Secretary of Agriculture;

(C) invite appropriate officials of the Government of Canada to participate;

(D) seek the participation of State fish and wildlife management agencies, State environmental agencies, and other interested parties and members of the public; and

(E) consider the comments received before preparing the final strategy.

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