

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5145

To provide fellowships for graduate and postgraduate level students engaged in advanced degree programs concerning freshwater and anadromous fish, wildlife, or conservation biology, or related natural resource management, to provide expertise and to gain policy experience in Federal executive agencies or the Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2004

Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. SHAW, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. EHLERS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. FARR, Mr. BELL, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. FORD, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. KIND, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To provide fellowships for graduate and postgraduate level students engaged in advanced degree programs concerning freshwater and anadromous fish, wildlife, or conservation biology, or related natural resource management, to provide expertise and to gain policy experience in Federal executive agencies or the Congress.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Fish and
3 Wildlife Policy Fellowship Program Act of 2004”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Nearly one-third of the population of the
7 United States participates in fish and wildlife-related
8 recreation annually. In 2001, 82 million people par-
9 ticipated in wildlife-related recreation, including
10 sport angling, hunting, birding, photography, and
11 other activities.

12 (2) Vibrant, healthy, and well-managed natural
13 living resources are essential to obtaining the eco-
14 nomic benefits derived from them. Wildlife-related
15 recreation contributes significantly to the United
16 States economy. In 2001, the economic impact of
17 fishing and hunting was \$116,000,000,000 and
18 \$68,000,000,000, respectively. In addition, approxi-
19 mately 1,000,000 jobs were created as a result of
20 such recreation.

21 (3) There are over 50 university programs, doz-
22 ens of State and Federal agencies, and over \$1 bil-
23 lion dedicated to fisheries and wildlife research,
24 management, and conservation.

25 (4) Expertise in freshwater and anadromous
26 fisheries and wildlife policy is paramount to the fu-

1 ture effective management of the Nation's fish and
2 wildlife resources.

3 (5) The National Sea Grant John A. Knauss
4 Fellowship has been successful in promoting stew-
5 ardship of the Nation's natural marine and coastal
6 resources. Since 1979, over 528 marine scientists
7 have been awarded fellowships that have enabled
8 them to bring their scientific expertise to the Fed-
9 eral agencies and the Congress while obtaining valu-
10 able policy experience. Many of the fellows continue
11 to serve as marine policy professionals in the Fed-
12 eral Government, the private sector, and the univer-
13 sity research community.

14 (6) Currently no formal mechanism exists to se-
15 cure individuals with specific expertise in freshwater
16 and anadromous fisheries, wildlife, or conservation
17 biology, or related natural resource management,
18 while simultaneously providing valuable policy expe-
19 rience within the Federal Government and the Con-
20 gress. Such a mechanism would support and en-
21 hance stewardship of the Nation's fish and wildlife.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

1 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
2 the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife
3 Service.

4 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of the Interior.

6 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE POLICY**
7 **FELLOWSHIPS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award fellow-
9 ships to qualified graduate and post-graduate level stu-
10 dents engaged in advanced degree programs concerning
11 freshwater and anadromous fish, wildlife, conservation
12 management, or biology.

13 (b) OBJECTIVES.—In awarding fellowships under
14 subsection (a), the Secretary shall seek to achieve, with
15 respect to fish and wildlife conservation, the following edu-
16 cational and training objectives:

17 (1) To provide qualified graduate and post-
18 graduate level individuals opportunities for participa-
19 tion in the policy process within the executive and
20 legislative branches of the Federal Government.

21 (2) To provide Federal agencies and the Con-
22 gress with specific expertise in fish and wildlife man-
23 agement and conservation biology to aid in the effec-
24 tive management of the Nation’s natural living re-
25 sources.

1 (c) GUIDELINES FOR AWARD OF FELLOWSHIPS.—
2 The fellowships shall be awarded pursuant to guidelines
3 established by the Secretary.

4 (d) TERM OF FELLOWSHIPS.—A fellowship under
5 subsection (a) shall be for a period of not more than 1
6 year.

7 (e) EQUAL ACCESS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall strive to
9 ensure equal access for minority and economically
10 disadvantaged students to the program carried out
11 under subsection (a).

12 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
13 date of the enactment of this section, and every 2
14 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report
15 to the Congress describing—

16 (A) the efforts by the Secretary to ensure
17 equal access for minority and economically dis-
18 advantaged students to the fellowship carried
19 out under subsection (a); and

20 (B) the results of such efforts.

21 (f) ADMINISTRATION.—The Director shall administer
22 fellowships under subsection (a).

23 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section
25 there is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-

1 retary \$1,400,000 for each of fiscal years 2005
2 through 2009.

3 (2) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EX-
4 PENSES.—Of amounts available to carry out this
5 section each fiscal year, no more than 5 percent may
6 be expended for administrative costs.

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