

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 421

To prohibit the Corps of Engineers from taking any action to establish a restricted area prohibiting public access to waters downstream of a dam, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 28, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. PAUL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To prohibit the Corps of Engineers from taking any action to establish a restricted area prohibiting public access to waters downstream of a dam, 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 “Freedom to Fish Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. RESTRICTED AREAS AT CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

6 **DAMS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
8 sion of law, the Secretary of the Army, acting through  
9 the Chief of Engineers, shall not take any action to estab-

1 lish a restricted area prohibiting public access to waters  
 2 downstream of a dam owned by the Corps of Engineers.

3 (b) EXCLUSION.—For purposes of this Act, installing  
 4 and maintaining sirens, strobe lights, and signage for  
 5 alerting the public of hazardous water conditions shall not  
 6 be considered to be an action to establish a restricted area  
 7 under subsection (a).

8 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
 10 this section shall apply to an action described in sub-  
 11 section (a) on or after August 1, 2012.

12 (2) EXISTING RESTRICTIONS.—If the Secretary  
 13 of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers,  
 14 has taken an action described in subsection (a) dur-  
 15 ing the period beginning on August 1, 2012, and  
 16 ending on the date of enactment of this Act, the  
 17 Secretary shall—

18 (A) cease implementing the restricted area  
 19 resulting from the action; and

20 (B) remove any barriers constructed in  
 21 connection with the restricted area.

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