

(3) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the government of such country is taking effective and continuing steps to address the problem of child soldiers”; and

(4) in subsection (e)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “to a country” and all that follows through “subsection (a)” and inserting “under section 541 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347) through the Defense Institute for International Legal Studies or the Center for Civil-Military Relations at the Naval Post-Graduate School, and may provide nonlethal supplies (as defined in section 2557(d)(1)(B) of title 10, United States Code), to a country subject to the prohibition under subsection (a)”.

(c) **REPORTS.**—Section 405 of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2370c–2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “, during any of the 5 years following the date of the enactment of this Act,”; and

(ii) by striking “waiver” and inserting “waiver”.

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respectively;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) a description and the amount of any assistance withheld under this title pursuant to the application to those countries of the prohibition in section 404(a);”;

(D) in paragraph (5), as redesignated, by inserting “and the amount” after “a description”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT.**—If the Secretary of State notifies a country pursuant to section 404(b)(2), or the President grants a waiver pursuant to section 404(c)(1), the Secretary of State shall include, in each report required under section 110(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)), the information required to be included in the annual report to Congress under paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (c).”.

(d) **ELIMINATION OF CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT BY AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES.**—

(1) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Department of State and the Department of Defense should fully implement the recommendations in the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction’s 2017 report on Child Sexual Assault in Afghanistan.

(2) **REPORT ON STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall report to the appropriate congressional committees on the status of implementation, within their respective departments, of each recommendation included in the report referenced in paragraph (1).

(3) **REPORT ON INTERAGENCY EFFORTS TO MONITOR ABUSES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall report to the appropriate congressional committees on the status of interagency efforts to establish effective, coherent, and discrete reporting by United States personnel on child sexual abuse by Afghan security forces with whom they train or advise or to whom they provide assistance.

(4) **PRIORITIZATION AT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN.**—The Department of State shall ensure that the issue of child sexual assault by Afghan security forces is incorporated and elevated as an issue of international concern and focus at the next Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan, scheduled for November 27–28, 2018, in Geneva, Switzerland, with the goal of ending the illegal but ongoing practice known as “bacha bazi”.

(5) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

### **TITLE III—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**

#### **SEC. 301. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS UNDER THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.**

Section 113 of the Trafficking Victims Prevention Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7110) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE TASK FORCE.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State, for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2021, \$13,822,000 for Diplomatic and Consular Programs of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which shall be used to carry out sections 105(e), 105(f), and 110, including for additional personnel.”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “\$14,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2014 through 2017” and inserting “\$19,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2021, of which \$3,500,000 is authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year for the National Human Trafficking Hotline.”;

(3) in subsection (c), by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) **ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State, for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2021, \$65,000,000, which shall be used—

“(A) to carry out sections 106 and 107(a);

“(B) to carry out section 134 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2152d);

“(C) to assist countries in meeting the minimum standards described in section 108; and

“(D) for programs and activities on prevention, protection, and prosecution to combat all forms of trafficking in persons internationally, including training activities for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and members of the judiciary with respect to trafficking in persons at the International Law Enforcement Academies.”;

(4) in subsection (f), by striking “2014 through 2017” and inserting “2018 through 2021.”.

#### **SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL MEGAN’S LAW.**

Section 11 of the International Megan’s Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders (34 U.S.C. 21509) is amended by striking “2017 and 2018” and inserting “2018 through 2021”.

#### **SEC. 303. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR AIRPORT PERSONNEL TRAINING TO IDENTIFY AND REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.**

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection \$250,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2021 to expand outreach and live on-site anti-trafficking training for airport and airline personnel.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Murray amendment at the desk be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment, as amended, be agreed to; and the bill, as amended, be considered read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4107) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To strike the section of the bill establishing preferred places of accommodation for Federal employees and for other purposes)

On page 53, line 9, insert “, in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Labor,” after “Services”.

On page 57, line 16, insert “the Secretary of Labor” after “Administration,”.

Beginning on page 58, strike line 14 and all that follows through page 65, line 14.

On page 71, strike lines 1 through 25.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bill, as amended, to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? Hearing none, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 2200), as amended, was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### **MODERNIZING RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2017**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 441, S. 1520.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1520) to expand recreational fishing opportunities through enhanced marine fishery conservation and management, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

#### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; REFERENCES.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents; references.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

#### TITLE I—CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Sec. 101. Process for allocation review for South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico mixed-use fisheries.

Sec. 102. Fishery management measures.

Sec. 103. Study of limited access privilege programs for mixed-use fisheries.

Sec. 104. Rebuilding overfished fisheries.

Sec. 105. Authorization for multispecies complexes and multiyear catch limits.

Sec. 106. Exempted fishing permits.

#### TITLE II—RECREATION FISHERY INFORMATION, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 201. Cooperative data collection.

Sec. 202. Recreational data collection.

#### TITLE III—RULE OF CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 301. Rule of construction.

(C) REFERENCES TO THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Section 2(a) (16 U.S.C. 1801(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(13) While both provide significant cultural and economic benefits to the Nation, recreational fishing and commercial fishing are different activities. Therefore, management approaches should be adapted to the characteristics of each sector.”.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means any Regional Fishery Management Council established under section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852).

(3) LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE PROGRAM.—The term “limited access privilege program” means a program that meets the requirements of section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1853a).

(4) MIXED-USE FISHERY.—The term “mixed-use fishery” means a Federal fishery in which 2 or more of the following occur:

(A) Recreational fishing.

(B) Charter fishing.

(C) Commercial fishing.

#### TITLE I—CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

##### SEC. 101. PROCESS FOR ALLOCATION REVIEW FOR SOUTH ATLANTIC AND GULF OF MEXICO MIXED-USE FISHERIES.

(a) STUDY OF ALLOCATIONS IN MIXED-USE FISHERIES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico mixed-use fisheries—

(1) to provide guidance to each applicable Council on criteria that could be used for allocating fishing privileges, including consideration of the ecological, economic, and social factors of each component of a mixed-use fishery,

in the preparation of a fishery management plan;

(2) to identify sources of information that could reasonably support the use of such criteria in allocation decisions; and

(3) to develop procedures for allocation reviews and potential adjustments in allocations.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date an arrangement is entered into under subsection (a), the National Academy of Sciences shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the study conducted under that subsection.

##### (c) PROCESS FOR ALLOCATION REVIEW AND ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, an applicable Council shall perform a review of the allocations to the commercial fishing sector and the recreational fishing sector of all applicable fisheries in its jurisdiction, consistent with the provisions of this Act.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting a review under paragraph (1), an applicable Council shall consider, in each allocation decision, the ecological, economic, and social factors of—

(A) the commercial fishing sector; and

(B) the recreational fishing sector.

(d) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE COUNCIL.—In this section, the term “applicable Council” means—

(1) the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; or

(2) the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

##### SEC. 102. FISHERY MANAGEMENT MEASURES.

(a) MANAGEMENT.—Section 302(h) (16 U.S.C. 1852(h)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)(C), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (9); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

“(8) have the authority to use fishery management measures in a recreational fishery (or the recreational component of a mixed-use fishery) in developing a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or proposed regulations, such as extraction rates, fishing mortality targets, harvest control rules, or traditional or cultural practices of native communities; and”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes any actions pursuant to paragraph (8) of section 302(h) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(h)), as added by subsection (a).

(c) OTHER FISHERIES.—Nothing in paragraph (8) of section 302(h) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(h)), as added by subsection (a), shall be construed to affect management of any fishery not described in such paragraph (8).

##### SEC. 103. STUDY OF LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE PROGRAMS FOR MIXED-USE FISHERIES.

(a) STUDY ON LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine shall—

(A) complete a study on the use of limited access privilege programs in mixed-use fisheries, including—

(i) an assessment of progress in meeting the goals of the program and this Act;

(ii) an assessment of the social, economic, and ecological effects of the program, considering each sector of a mixed-use fishery and related businesses, coastal communities, and the environment;

(iii) an assessment of any impacts to stakeholders in a mixed-use fishery caused by a limited access privilege program;

(iv) recommendations of policies to address any impacts identified under clause (iii); and

(v) identification of and recommendation of the different factors and information that should be considered when designing, establishing, or maintaining a limited access privilege program in a mixed-use fishery to mitigate any impacts identified in clause (iii); and

(B) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the study under subparagraph (A), including the recommendations under clauses (iv) and (v) of subparagraph (A).

(2) EXCLUSION.—The study described in this subsection shall not include the areas covered by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

##### (b) TEMPORARY MORATORIUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), with respect to applicable Councils, there shall be a moratorium on the submission and approval of a limited access privilege program for a mixed-used fishery for 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Subject to paragraph (3), an applicable Council may submit, and the Secretary of Commerce may approve, for a mixed-use fishery that is managed under a limited access system, a limited access privilege program if such program was part of a pending fishery management plan or plan amendment before the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) MANDATORY REVIEW.—An applicable Council that approves a limited access privilege program under paragraph (2) shall, upon issuance of the report required under subparagraph (a), review and, to the extent practicable, revise the limited access privilege program to be consistent with the recommendations of the report or any subsequent statutory or regulatory requirements designed to implement the recommendations of the report.

(4) LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE PROGRAM.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect a limited access privilege program approved by the Secretary of Commerce before the date of enactment of this Act.

(5) APPLICABLE COUNCIL.—In this subsection, the term “applicable Council” means—

(A) the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council;

(B) the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; or

(C) the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

##### SEC. 104. REBUILDING OVERFISHED FISHERIES.

Section 304(e) (16 U.S.C. 1854(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by amending subparagraph (A)(ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) not exceed the shortest time possible within which the stock of fish would be rebuilt without fishing occurring, plus one mean generation, unless management measures under international agreement in which the United States participates dictate otherwise;” and

(2) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii);

(B) by striking “(7) The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(7)(A) The Secretary”;

(C) by striking “If the Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(B) If the Secretary”;

(D) in subparagraph (A), as so redesignated, by striking “two years” and inserting the following: “2 years. The Secretary shall find that adequate progress toward ending overfishing and rebuilding affected fish stocks has not resulted if—

“(i) the status of the stock is not improving, such that it becomes unlikely that the stock will be rebuilt within the rebuilding time period;

“(ii) the applicable fishing mortality rate or catch limits are exceeded, and the causes and rebuilding consequences of such exceedances have not been corrected;

“(iii) the rebuilding expectations are significantly changed due to new information about

the status of the stock, and the new information indicates that less progress than expected has been made toward rebuilding the stock; or

“(iv) for other reasons, as appropriate.”; and  
 (E) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) A Council shall not adopt, and the Secretary shall not approve, a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or proposed regulation required under this subsection for any fishery that has previously been under such a plan that did not rebuild such fishery to the biomass necessary to achieve maximum sustainable yield, as determined by the Council’s scientific and statistical committee, unless the new plan, amendment, or proposed regulation has at least a 75 percent chance of rebuilding the fishery within the time limit proposed by the Council, as calculated by the Council’s scientific and statistical committee pursuant to section 302(g)(1)(B).”.

#### SEC. 105. AUTHORIZATION FOR MULTISPECIES COMPLEXES AND MULTIYEAR CATCH LIMITS.

Section 302 (16 U.S.C. 1852) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m) AUTHORIZATION FOR MULTISPECIES COMPLEXES AND MULTIYEAR CATCH LIMITS.—For purposes of subsection (h)(6), a Council may establish—

“(1) an annual catch limit for a stock complex; or

“(2) annual catch limits for each year in any continuous period that is not more than 3 years in duration.”.

#### SEC. 106. EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS.

(a) OBJECTIONS.—If the Fishery Management Council, the Interstate Marine Fisheries Commission, or the fish and wildlife agency of an affected State objects to the approval and issuance of an exempted fishing permit under section 600.745 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service who issued such exempted fishing permit shall respond to such entity in writing detailing why such exempted fishing permit was issued.

(b) 12-MONTH FINDING.—At the end of the 12-month period beginning on the date the exempted fishing permit is issued under section 600.745 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, the Council that prepared the fishery management plan, or the Secretary in the case of a fishery management plan prepared and implemented by the Secretary, shall review the exempted fishing permit and determine whether any unintended negative impacts have occurred that would warrant the discontinuation of the permit.

(c) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect an exempted fishing permit approved under section 600.745 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, before the date of enactment of this Act.

#### TITLE II—RECREATION FISHERY INFORMATION, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

##### SEC. 201. COOPERATIVE DATA COLLECTION.

(a) IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS.—Section 404 (16 U.S.C. 1881c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017, the Secretary shall develop, in consultation with the science and statistical committees of the Councils established under section 302(g) and the Marine Fisheries Commissions, and submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on facilitating greater incorporation of data, analysis, stock assessments, and surveys from State agencies and nongovernmental sources described in paragraph (2), to the extent such information is consistent with section 301(a)(2), into fisheries management decisions.

“(2) CONTENT.—In developing the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(A) identify types of data and analysis, especially concerning recreational fishing, that can be used for purposes of this Act as the basis for establishing conservation and management measures as required by section 303(a)(1), including setting standards for the collection and use of that data and analysis in stock assessments and surveys and for other purposes;

“(B) provide specific recommendations for collecting data and performing analyses identified as necessary to reduce uncertainty in and improve the accuracy of future stock assessments, including whether such data and analysis could be provided by nongovernmental sources; and

“(C) consider the extent to which the acceptance and use of data and analyses identified in the report in fishery management decisions is practicable and compatible with the requirements of section 301(a)(2).”.

(b) NAS REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary of Commerce shall take into consideration and, to the extent feasible, implement the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences in the report entitled “Review of the Marine Recreational Information Program (2017)”, and shall submit, every 2 years following the date of enactment of this Act, a report to the appropriate committees of Congress detailing progress made implementing those recommendations. Recommendations considered shall include—

(1) prioritizing the evaluation of electronic data collection, including smartphone applications, electronic diaries for prospective data collection, and an internet website option for panel members or for the public;

(2) evaluating whether the design of the Marine Recreational Information Program for the purposes of stock assessment and the determination of stock management reference points is compatible with the needs of in-season management of annual catch limits; and

(3) if the Marine Recreational Information Program is incompatible with the needs of in-season management of annual catch limits, determining an alternative method for in-season management.

##### SEC. 202. RECREATIONAL DATA COLLECTION.

Section 401 (16 U.S.C. 1881) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIPS.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a partnership with a State to develop best practices for implementing the State program established under paragraph (2).

“(B) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall develop guidance, in cooperation with the States, that details best practices for administering State programs pursuant to paragraph (2), and provide such guidance to the States.

“(C) BIENNIAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and publish biennial reports that include—

“(i) the estimated accuracy of—

“(I) the information provided under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) for each registry program established under that paragraph; and

“(II) the information from each State program that is used to assist in completing surveys or evaluating effects of conservation and management measures under paragraph (2);

“(ii) priorities for improving recreational fishing data collection; and

“(iii) an explanation of any use of information collected by such State programs and by the Secretary.

“(D) STATES GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary may make grants to States to improve implementation of State programs consistent with this

subsection, and assist such programs in complying with requirements related to changes in recreational data collection under paragraph (3). Any funds awarded through such grants shall be used to support data collection, quality assurance, and outreach to entities submitting such data. The Secretary shall prioritize such grants based on the ability of the grant to improve the quality and accuracy of such programs.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(h) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) within 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018, enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate, in the form of a report—

“(A) how the design of the Marine Recreational Information Program, for the purposes of stock assessment and the determination of stock management reference points, can be improved to better meet the needs of in-season management of annual catch limits under section 303(a)(15); and

“(B) what actions the Secretary, Councils, and States could take to improve the accuracy and timeliness of data collection and analysis to improve the Marine Recreational Information Program and facilitate in-season management; and

“(2) within 6 months after receiving the report under paragraph (1), submit to Congress recommendations regarding—

“(A) changes to be made to the Marine Recreational Information Program to make the program better meet the needs of in-season management of annual catch limits and other requirements under such section; and

“(B) alternative management approaches that could be applied to recreational fisheries for which the Marine Recreational Information Program is not meeting the needs of in-season management of annual catch limits, consistent with other requirements of this Act, until such time as the changes in subparagraph (A) are implemented.”.

#### TITLE III—RULE OF CONSTRUCTION

##### SEC. 301. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as modifying the requirements of sections 301(a), 302(h)(6), or 303(a)(15) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a); 1852(h)(6); 1853(a)(15)).

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Wicker substitute amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 4115) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The bill (S. 1520, as amended), was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### FARM BILL

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud my colleagues for coming together in a bipartisan fashion to pass the farm bill conference report.

There is much to be excited about in the final version of this 5-year reauthorization. First and foremost, the farm bill will bring much needed certainty and predictability to farmers and ranchers over the next 5 years. This is especially important given the intense pressure our agriculture producers are facing.

If you look at the numbers across the Nation, net farm income is approximately half of what it was when we passed the last farm bill. Farm bankruptcies are up by 39 percent since 2014; financing has become more expensive; commodity prices have plummeted; input costs are rising; and the trade outlook is volatile and uncertain, to say the least.

Farmers across the country—regardless of where they call home or which crops they grow—are hurting. The farm bill that Congress approved last week, delivers meaningful and real relief for our farmers and ranchers in these very difficult times. It is the big bill for my home State of Arkansas as well as across the country.

Agriculture is a driving force of the Natural State's economy, adding around \$16 billion to our economy every year and accounting for approximately one in every six jobs. That is why agriculture advocacy groups in Arkansas were very excited when we passed the final version.

The Arkansas Farm Bureau said it was "pleased that Congress has recognized how important the new farm bill is to the hard-working farmers and ranchers of this country" and expressed gratitude that we came together "to pass this critical legislation before the new year."

The Agricultural Council of Arkansas said it "cannot stress enough the importance of the farm bill and the need for it among Arkansas farmers." The council went on to add "a farm bill with meaningful support is critical in preventing significant harm to Arkansas farms."

The Arkansas Rice Federation said the farm bill will provide "certainty in such a variable agricultural climate."

Along with strengthening key risk management tools for our farmers, the farm bill also helps our rural communities by authorizing key economic development and job creation programs. It helps rural Arkansans with everything from combating the opioid crisis, to home financing, to high-speed internet access.

Sending this bill to the President is about as important as it gets for my State. It would not have been as beneficial to Arkansas farmers and ranchers without the diligent efforts of the

conference committee leadership who worked to ensure that the harmful, arbitrary policy changes were excluded from the final conference report. As a result of these efforts, family farms are protected from additional regulations and unnecessary paperwork.

I commend Chairmen ROBERTS and CONWAY, as well as Ranking Members STABENOW and PETERSON, for their commitment to make this bill fair and equitable to the diverse needs of producers across all regions of the country.

Again, as always, special thanks to the staffs who do so much hard work around here to get these things done. It was a heavy lift. They worked hard to ensure that we would get this done before adjourning this Congress.

I would also like to thank them for their willingness to include provisions that I advocated for in the conference report. The elimination of all State performance bonuses in SNAP is something I pushed for in the last farm bill. I am pleased that this time we got it included. The Federal Government partners with States to administer SNAP, but in order to best serve program recipients, the States must be good partners. Unfortunately, States have exaggerated their performance to receive these bonuses. This policy change saves \$48 million per year. Is a smart reform that we have made in this bill.

I was particularly proud that another provision, championed by my friend Senator HEITKAMP and by me, was included. It would allow trade promotion funding for agricultural products to be used in Cuba. This is a big win for our farmers and ranchers who have consistently been working to open up more access to the Cuban market.

Cuba imports approximately 80 percent of its food, and our farmers and ranchers produce the highest quality, lowest cost, and safest food in the world.

Additionally, I welcomed the inclusion of my provision that clarifies the definition of livestock to include live fish for purposes of the Department of Transportation's hours of service regulations, as well as reauthorization of the ATTRA Program, which does so much to help our veterans who want to get started in agriculture, and reauthorization of the Delta Regional Authority.

The farm bill conference report includes a true investment in conservation to help the waterfowl in Arkansas, and I was excited to see the Century Farms Act that Senator MURPHY and I authored was also a part of the package.

With approval of the conference report last week, we are just one step away from the farm bill becoming law. President Trump has indicated his support of a farm bill that will ensure certainty and predictability for producers. We are sending one his way, and I look forward to it becoming law.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Will the Senator suspend a moment?

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

### SAVE OUR SEAS ACT OF 2017

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany S. 756, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany S. 756, a bill to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with McConnell (for Grassley) amendment No. 4108, to provide for programs to help reduce the risk that prisoners will recidivate upon release from prison.

Division I of McConnell (for Kennedy/Cotton) amendment No. 4109 (to amendment No. 4108), to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to notify each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned the date on which the prisoner will be released.

Division II of McConnell (for Kennedy/Cotton) amendment No. 4109 (to amendment No. 4108), to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to notify each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned the date on which the prisoner will be released.

Division III of McConnell (for Kennedy/Cotton) amendment No. 4109 (to amendment No. 4108), to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to notify each victim of the offense for which the prisoner is imprisoned the date on which the prisoner will be released.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

### TRIBUTE TO LYNN JENKINS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I am on the floor this afternoon to honor a friend, a colleague, and the senior Representative from Kansas, Congresswoman LYNN JENKINS, who has gracefully and honorably served Kansas for two decades in both our State and here in the Federal Government.

While I am going to talk a little bit about LYNN's history and past, none of this should be taken just as something that is being read in her honor. She is a very special person who has served Kansas so well, and she brings such tremendous attributes to public service. We will miss her greatly, and Kansans will have benefited from her service, but she will also remain a role model for many who look for ways to make America and to make our State more prosperous, with a brighter future.