

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GREAT LAKES MASS MARKING PROGRAM ACT OF 2025

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1917) to establish the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1917

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Great Lakes have experienced rapid changes in recent years due to—

(A) the introduction of multiple aquatic invasive species;

(B) alterations in the food web; and

(C) decreases in the abundance of prey species;

(2) due to rapid biological change in the Great Lakes, the Great Lakes need a collaborative, science-based program to assist in making management actions regarding fish stocking rates, the rehabilitation of important fish species, and habitat restoration;

(3) the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Wisconsin and Indian Tribes in those States, working through the Council of Lake Committees of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, have identified that mass marking is—

(A) a precise tool to keep hatchery-produced fish in balance with wild fish; and

(B) essential to achieving fishery management and research objectives through producing a better understanding of—

(i) the quantity of hatchery produced fish compared to wild fish in the Great Lakes;

(ii) the effectiveness of hatchery operations; and

(iii) the effectiveness of fishery management actions;

(4) the mass marking program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes—

(A) was initiated in 2010 on a limited scale;

(B) annually tags approximately 9,000,000 to 11,000,000 of the hatchery-produced fish stocked in the Great Lakes;

(C) is a basinwide cooperative effort among the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Indian Tribes, and State management agencies; and

(D) produces data used by State and Tribal fish management agencies to make management decisions regarding Great Lakes fisheries;

(5) annually, Federal, State, and Tribal agencies stock approximately 21,000,000 hatchery-produced fish in the Great Lakes to support—

(A) native species recovery; and

(B) recreational and commercial fishing;

(6) mass marking of hatchery-produced fish, using automated technology, is an efficient method of implementing a collaborative, science-based fishery program; and

(7) the Great Lakes are an important and valued resource that—

(A) supports a robust regional economy valued at more than \$7,000,000,000; and

(B) provides stability to the economy of the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *DIRECTOR*.—The term "Director" means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(2) *PROGRAM*.—The term "Program" means the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program established by section 4(a).

SEC. 4. GREAT LAKES MASS MARKING PROGRAM.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—To assist in determining the effectiveness of hatchery operations and fisheries management actions and to support Great Lakes fisheries, there is established within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service a program for the mass marking of hatchery-produced fish in the Great Lakes basin, to be known as the "Great Lakes Mass Marking Program".

(b) *AUTHORIZED ACTIONS*.—In carrying out the Program, the Director may—

(1) purchase capital and expendable equipment, fish tags, and other items necessary to support and carry out tagging and tag recovery operations, including data processing and data dissemination relating to those operations; and

(2) hire additional personnel, as necessary.

(c) *REQUIRED COLLABORATION*.—In carrying out the Program, the Director shall collaborate with applicable Federal, State, and Tribal fish management agencies, the Council of Lake Committees of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and signatories to the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries.

(d) *AVAILABILITY OF DATA*.—The Director shall make the data collected under the Program available to applicable Federal, State, and Tribal fish management agencies—

(1) to increase the understanding of the outcomes of management action;

(2) to assist in meeting the restoration objectives of the Great Lakes, including the fish community objectives and fish management plans described in the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries;

(3) to assist in balancing predators and prey;

(4) to support and improve the economic status of Tribal, recreational, and commercial fisheries; and

(5) to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of habitat restoration efforts in the Great Lakes.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Program \$2,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1917, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1917, the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act of 2025, sponsored by my colleague from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

According to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Tribal, commercial, and recreational fisheries in the five Great Lakes are home to 177 species of fish, including 139 native species.

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These Tribal, commercial, and recreational fisheries have an annual economic value exceeding \$7 billion and support over 75,000 jobs.

One of the greatest challenges facing the Great Lakes is the threat of invasive species, such as the sea lamprey and Asian carp. To counter these invasive species, Tribal, Federal, and State agencies introduce hatchery-raised fish to encourage the recovery of native species. For example, in 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 10 hatcheries that support the Great Lakes region introduced more than 4.7 million hatchery fish into the five Great Lakes.

To gather data on the success of hatchery fish, wildlife managers tag large numbers of these fish through a practice known as mass marking. This practice enables them to easily distinguish between hatchery fish and wild fish populations.

In addition to tagging hatchery fish, this program also plays a vital role in aiding cooperative fisheries management decisions with States and Tribes by producing data on the health of the fishery.

The Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act was administratively established in 2010 and continues to receive appropriations despite never being authorized by Congress. H.R. 1917 would provide formal congressional authorization for this existing program, thereby increasing the opportunity for congressional oversight over the program. Importantly, by providing a statutory authorization, it would better enable the Committee on Natural Resources to make substantive changes to how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the program, should changes be necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for considering my important legislation, the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act, today.

I thank my friends, Representatives HUIZENGA and WALBERG, for their bipartisan support and partnership on this bill. I also thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member HUFFMAN for their support.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes States and Tribes, along with the Fish and Wildlife Service, annually stock millions of salmon and trout to restore native fish populations, diversify sport fisheries, and control invasive forage fishes within the Great Lakes. However, little is known about how well these fish survive, contribute to the fisheries, and reproduce in the wild. This is where mass marking comes into play.

Mass marking is the practice of tagging large numbers of hatchery-raised fish so we can easily distinguish them from the wild fish population.

The planned method within the Great Lakes is to clip the adipose fin, the small fin on the dorsal side near the tail, combined with a coded wire tag, or CWT. A CWT is a 1.1 millimeter-long, tiny stainless steel wire marked with serial numbers denoting a specific group of fish.

This tag can be extracted after recapture, which will provide biologists with key population characteristics, such as survival, movement, contribution to fisheries, growth, and their levels of natural reproduction.

This legislation would enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to mark all hatchery-produced fish within the Great Lakes. Currently, we tag only around 9 to 11 million of the 21 million fish stocked in the Great Lakes each year.

Marking all hatchery fish will drastically improve data collection, enabling better analysis of the health of wild fish stocks. This information will provide valuable insights to help develop a science-based, collaborative fishery management program. This legislation also ensures that the collected data will be shared with all relevant fishery management agencies.

We have seen the effectiveness of these types of programs in the Pacific Northwest for salmon and steelhead management. With the Great Lakes fishing economy, which is valued at about \$5.5 billion, it is time we invest in this proven data-driven approach that would significantly enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of hatchery operations and fisheries management.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues again for considering this important legislation today, and I encourage my colleagues to support its final passage. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, to Michiganders, the Great Lakes are more than just a natural resource. They are a source of pride for our State, a cornerstone of our identity, and a home to our world-class fisheries.

From Lake Michigan to Lake Erie, generations of anglers have cast their lines into these great waters, and families like mine have taken their children and grandchildren to make their first catch, creating meaningful and lasting memories.

These fisheries are also a lifeline for our local economy. Taken together, the Great Lakes commercial, recreational, and Tribal fisheries generate over \$7 billion annually and support over 75,000 jobs.

That is why I am proud to join Representatives DEBBIE DINGELL and BILL HUIZENGA on the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act, which will build on the success of the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program to implement the large-scale marking of fish in all hatcheries.

In 2023, an angler from Sheboygan caught a 35-inch lake trout—I am jealous—which was marked as part of the program. Its coded tag revealed that the trout hatched in 1984 and was raised at the Iron River National Fish Hatchery before being stocked on Sheboygan Reef in 1985.

Data like this allows us to better understand migratory patterns and population changes. By expanding the program to all Great Lakes hatcheries, we can improve fishing practices, increase efficiencies, and save resources wherever possible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act so that we can preserve our fisheries and be better stewards of this great national treasure.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I will note that I have no further requests for time. I thank my colleague from Michigan (Mr. TIFFANY) for supporting this bill.

I invite all of my colleagues to join me fishing on the Great Lakes. It might be good therapy for this institution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes are both an ecological and economic engine for our Nation. It is our duty as Members of Congress to safeguard them for future generations, and H.R. 1917 is a step forward in that process.

I thank Representatives DINGELL, WALBERG, and HUIZENGA for their efforts on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1917, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 3937; and,
H.R. 1917.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant

to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

WABENO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3937) to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 1, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 215]

YEAS—410

Adams	Cloud	Frankel, Lois
Aderholt	Clyburn	Franklin, Scott
Aguilar	Clyde	Friedman
Alford	Cohen	Frost
Allen	Cole	Fry
Amo	Collins	Fulcher
Amodei (NV)	Comer	Garamendi
Ansari	Conaway	Garbarino
Auchincloss	Correa	Garcia (CA)
Babin	Costa	Garcia (IL)
Bacon	Courtney	Garcia (TX)
Baird	Craig	Gill (TX)
Balderson	Crane	Gillen
Balint	Crank	Gimenez
Barr	Crawford	Golden (ME)
Barragán	Crenshaw	Goldman (NY)
Barrett	Crow	Goldman (TX)
Baumgartner	Cuellar	Gomez
Bean (FL)	Davidson	Gonzales, Tony
Beatty	Davis (KS)	Gonzalez, V.
Begich	Davis (IL)	Gooden
Bell	Davis (NC)	Goodlander
Bentz	De La Cruz	Gosar
Bera	Dean (PA)	Gottheimer
Bergman	DeGette	Gray
Beyer	DeLauro	Green, Al (TX)
Bice	DelBene	Greene (GA)
Biggs (AZ)	Deluzio	Griffith
Biggs (SC)	DeSaulnier	Grothman
Bilirakis	DesJarlais	Guest
Bishop	Dexter	Guthrie
Bonamici	Diaz-Balart	Hamadeh (AZ)
Bost	Dingell	Harder (CA)
Boyle (PA)	Doggett	Haridopolos
Brecheen	Donalds	Harrigan
Bresnahan	Downing	Harris (MD)
Brown	Dunn (FL)	Harris (NC)
Brownley	Edwards	Hayes
Buchanan	Elfreth	Hern (OK)
Budzinski	Ellzey	Hill (AR)
Burchett	Emmer	Himes
Burlison	Escobar	Hinson
Bynum	Españillat	Horsford
Calvert	Estes	Houchin
Cammack	Evans (CO)	Houlahan
Carbajal	Evans (PA)	Hoyer
Carey	Ezell	Hoyle (OR)
Carson	Fallon	Hudson
Carter (LA)	Fedorchak	Huizenga
Carter (TX)	Feenstra	Hunt
Casar	Fields	Hurd (CO)
Case	Figures	Issa
Casten	Fine	Ivey
Castor (FL)	Finstad	Jack
Castro (TX)	Fischbach	Jackson (IL)
Cherfilus-	Fitzgerald	Jackson (TX)
McCormick	Fitzpatrick	Jacobs
Chu	Fleischmann	James
Ciscomani	Fletcher	Jayapal
Cisneros	Flood	Jeffries
Clark (MA)	Fong	Johnson (GA)
Clarke (NY)	Foster	Johnson (SD)
Cleaver	Foushee	Johnson (TX)
Cline	Fox	Jordan