

Regional Coastal Disaster Assistance, Transition, and Recovery Program

S 2012, HR 5051

REGIONAL IMPACT EVALUATION.—Within 2 months after a catastrophic regional fishery disaster the Secretary shall provide the Governor of each State participating in the program a comprehensive economic and socio-economic evaluation of the affected region's fisheries to assist the Governor in assessing the current and future economic viability of affected fisheries, including the economic impact of foreign fish imports and the direct, indirect, or environmental impact of the disaster on the fishery and coastal communities.

Recreational Fisheries Information

S 2012, HR 5051, Admin Bill

Requires Secretary of Commerce to establish and implement a regionally based registry program for recreational fishermen and vessels. The Secretary may exempt recreational fishermen and vessels registered under existing state programs. (Section 201)

S. 2012 does not authorize funding for Secretary to help States establish a recreational saltwater license.

Admin Bill also proposes a mandatory national commercial fish permit program. (Section 17)

Requires Secretary of Commerce to establish a program to improve the quality and accuracy of information generated by the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS), with a target of achieving "acceptable accuracy and utility" for each individual fishery. The Secretary must submit a report to Congress describing progress toward achieving the program goals and objectives. (Section 201)

Collection of Information

S 2012, HR 5015, Admin Bill

Allows access to proprietary and economic information. (Section 202)

Authorizes Secretary of Commerce to implement an information collection or observer program to obtain additional information for fisheries management. (Section 202)

HR 5018

Authorizes Secretary to provide funds to Councils for socioeconomic data collection, including information on fishermen and fishing communities. Authorizes to be appropriated \$2 million annually to the Secretary for FY2007-FY2011. (Section 4(d))

Administration MSA bill has similar provisions allowing access to proprietary and economic information. (Section 6(e), Section 6(g))

Administration MSA bill authorizes Councils to request that the Secretary implement an information collection program to provide information as specified by the Councils. Bill also directs the Secretary of Commerce to establish a “national data collection system”. (Section 6(g))

Administration bill authorizes Secretary of Commerce to collect information for a national permit identification system. It includes the explicit authority both to collect unique identifiers (e.g., date of birth, social security numbers, and tax identification information) and to use them for a variety of management purposes. (Section 6(g))

Administration MSA bill requires establishment of a national data collection program to assist in effective implementation of fishery management plans. (Section 6(g))