

Calendar No. 728

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**H. R. 6127**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18 (legislative day, DECEMBER 16), 2024

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

AN ACT

To provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, 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 “Modernizing Access
5 to Our Public Waters Act” or the “MAPWaters Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **FEDERAL FISHING RESTRICTION.**—The
9 term “Federal fishing restriction” means a defined
10 area in which all or certain fishing activities are

1 temporarily or permanently prohibited or restricted
2 by a Federal land or water management agency.

3 (2) FEDERAL LAND OR WATER MANAGEMENT
4 AGENCY.—The term “Federal land or water man-
5 agement agency” means—

6 (A) the Bureau of Reclamation;

7 (B) the National Park Service;

8 (C) the Bureau of Land Management;

9 (D) the United States Fish and Wildlife
10 Service; and

11 (E) the Forest Service.

12 (3) FEDERAL WATERWAY.—The term “Federal
13 waterway” means any portion of a body of water
14 managed partially or wholly by 1 or more of the rel-
15 evant Secretaries.

16 (4) FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTION.—The
17 term “Federal waterway restriction” means a re-
18 striction on the access or use of a Federal waterway
19 applied under applicable law by 1 or more of the
20 Secretaries.

21 (5) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
22 means—

23 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
24 through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

25 (B) the Secretary of the Interior.

1 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY DATA STANDARDIZATION.**

2 Not later than 30 months after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination with the Fed-
4 eral Geographic Data Committee established by section
5 753(a) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (43
6 U.S.C. 2802(a)), shall jointly develop and adopt inter-
7 agency standards to ensure compatibility and interoper-
8 ability among applicable Federal databases with respect
9 to the collection and dissemination of geospatial data re-
10 lating to public outdoor recreational access of Federal wa-
11 terways and Federal fishing restrictions.

12 **SEC. 4. DATA CONSOLIDATION AND PUBLICATION.**

13 (a) FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTIONS.—Not later
14 than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each
15 of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable,
16 shall digitize and make publicly available online, as appli-
17 cable, geographic information system data that includes,
18 with respect to Federal waterway restrictions—

19 (1) status information with respect to the con-
20 ditions under which Federal waterways are open or
21 closed to entry or watercraft, including watercraft
22 inspection, decontamination requirements, low-ele-
23 vation aircraft, or diving;

24 (2) the dates on which Federal waterways are
25 seasonally closed to entry or watercraft;

1 (3) the areas of Federal waterways with restric-
2 tions on motorized propulsion, horsepower, or fuel
3 type;

4 (4) the areas of Federal waterways with an-
5 choring restrictions, no wake zones, exclusion zones,
6 danger areas, or vessel speed restrictions;

7 (5) Federal waterway restrictions on the direc-
8 tion of travel, including upstream or downstream
9 travel; and

10 (6) the types of watercraft that are restricted
11 on each area of a Federal waterway, including the
12 permissibility of—

13 (A) canoes;

14 (B) rafts and driftboats;

15 (C) motorboats;

16 (D) personal watercraft;

17 (E) airboats;

18 (F) amphibious aircraft;

19 (G) hovercraft;

20 (H) oversnow vehicles and other motorized
21 vehicles on frozen bodies of water; and

22 (I) oceangoing ships; and

23 (7) citations documenting the source of the re-
24 strictions.

1 (b) FEDERAL WATERWAY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION
2 INFORMATION.—Not later than 4 years after the date of
3 enactment of this Act, each of the Secretaries, to the max-
4 imum extent practicable, shall digitize and make publicly
5 available online, as applicable, geographic information sys-
6 tem data that includes, with respect to Federal waterway
7 access and navigation information—

8 (1)(A) the location of boat ramps, portages, and
9 fishing access sites under the authority of the Fed-
10 eral land or water management agency; and

11 (B) the identification of the dates on which the
12 facilities and sites identified under subparagraph (A)
13 are open or closed, as applicable; and

14 (2) bathymetric information and depth charts,
15 as feasible.

16 (c) FEDERAL FISHING RESTRICTIONS.—Not later
17 than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each
18 of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable,
19 shall digitize and make publicly available online geo-
20 graphic information system data that describes, with re-
21 spect to Federal fishing restrictions—

22 (1) the location and geographic boundaries of
23 Federal fishing restrictions on recreational and com-
24 mercial fishing, including—

25 (A) full or partial closures;

1 (B) no-take zones; and

2 (C) Federal fishing restrictions within or
3 surrounding marine protected areas;

4 (2) Federal fishing restrictions enacted pursu-
5 ant to section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy
6 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732(b));
7 and

8 (3) Federal requirements with respect to catch
9 and release.

10 (d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretaries shall de-
11 velop a process to allow members of the public to submit
12 questions or comments regarding the information de-
13 scribed in subsections (a) and (b).

14 (e) UPDATES.—The Secretaries, to the maximum ex-
15 tent practicable, shall update—

16 (1) the data described in subsections (a) and
17 (b) not less frequently than 2 times per year; and

18 (2) the data described in subsection (c) in real
19 time as changes go into effect.

20 (f) EXCLUSION.—This section shall not apply to irri-
21 gation canals and flowage easements.

22 (g) DISCLOSURE.—Any geographic information sys-
23 tem data made publicly available under this section shall
24 not disclose information regarding the nature, location,

1 character, or ownership of historic, paleontological, or ar-
2 chaeological resources, consistent with applicable law.

3 **SEC. 5. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.**

4 (a) **COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THIRD-PARTY PRO-**
5 **VIDERS.**—For purposes of carrying out this Act, the Sec-
6 retaries may—

7 (1) coordinate and partner with non-Federal
8 agencies and private sector and nonprofit partners,
9 including—

10 (A) State, territorial, and District of Co-
11 lumbia natural resource agencies;

12 (B) Tribal natural resource agencies;

13 (C) technology companies;

14 (D) geospatial data companies; and

15 (E) experts in data science, analytics, and
16 operations research; and

17 (2) enter into an agreement with a third party
18 to carry out any provision of this Act.

19 (b) **UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.**—The
20 Secretaries may work with the Director of the United
21 States Geological Survey to collect, aggregate, digitize,
22 standardize, and publish data on behalf of the Secretaries
23 to meet the requirements of this Act.

24 (c) **REQUIREMENT.**—With respect to data developed
25 and distributed under this Act, the Secretaries shall in-

1 clude a notice that any geospatial data are subject to ap-
2 plicable Federal, State, and Tribal regulations.

3 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

4 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
5 of this Act and annually thereafter through March 30,
6 2033, the Secretaries shall submit a report that describes
7 the progress made by the Secretaries with respect to meet-
8 ing the requirements of this Act to—

9 (1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
10 sources of the Senate;

11 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
12 and Forestry of the Senate;

13 (3) the Committee on Natural Resources of the
14 House of Representatives;

15 (4) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
16 the House of Representatives; and

17 (5) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
18 of Representatives.

19 **SEC. 7. EFFECT.**

20 Nothing in this Act—

21 (1) modifies or alters the definition of the term
22 “navigable waters” under Federal law;

23 (2) affects the jurisdiction or authority of State
24 or Federal agencies to regulate navigable waters;

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