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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to reauthorize the bycatch reduction engineering program and establish the Bycatch Mitigation Assistance Fund.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. PELTOLA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to reauthorize the bycatch reduction engineering program and establish the Bycatch Mitigation Assistance Fund.

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. BYCATCH REDUCTION AND MITIGATION.**

4 (a) REAUTHORIZATION OF BYCATCH REDUCTION  
5 ENGINEERING PROGRAM.—Section 316 of the Magnuson-  
6 Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16

1 U.S.C. 1865) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There  
4 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
5 out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025  
6 through 2029.”.

7 (b) **BYCATCH MITIGATION ASSISTANCE FUND.**—  
8 Title III of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation  
9 and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.) is amended  
10 by adding at the end the following:

11 **“SEC. 322. BYCATCH MITIGATION ASSISTANCE FUND.**

12 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established in the gen-  
13 eral fund of the Treasury of the United States an account  
14 to be known as the ‘Bycatch Mitigation Assistance Fund’,  
15 which shall—

16 “(1) be administered by the Foundation; and

17 “(2) consist of donations of amounts accepted  
18 pursuant to subsection (c).

19 “(b) **USE.**—Amounts in the Fund shall be used by  
20 the Foundation to reduce or mitigate bycatch, including  
21 by providing financial assistance to fishermen and owners  
22 of commercial fishing vessels to purchase fishing gear,  
23 equipment, or technology.

24 “(c) **DONATIONS.**—The Foundation may solicit and  
25 accept donations of amounts for deposit into the Fund.

1       “(d) CONSULTATION.—In administering the Fund,  
2 the Foundation shall consult with the Secretary, acting  
3 through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and  
4 Atmospheric Administration, each Council, and each of  
5 the regional science centers of the National Marine Fish-  
6 eries Service to ensure that, to the maximum extent prac-  
7 ticable, amounts in the Fund are used in an efficient and  
8 cost-effective manner.

9       “(e) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date  
10 of the enactment of this section, and biennially thereafter,  
11 the Foundation shall publish and post online in a manner  
12 available to the public information regarding the use of  
13 the Fund during—

14               “(1) with respect to the first publication of in-  
15 formation, the preceding 3 years; and

16               “(2) with respect to each subsequent publica-  
17 tion of information, the preceding 2 years.

18       “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19               “(1) FOUNDATION.—The term ‘Foundation’  
20 means the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

21               “(2) FUND.—The term ‘Fund’ means the By-  
22 catch Mitigation Assistance Fund established under  
23 subsection (a).”.