



The Fisheries Investment Act: S. 2184 and H.R. 4208 *Investing in the Future of Fish and Fishing in America's Oceans*

Sens. John Kerry (D-MA), Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME), and three other senators introduced S. 2184 on March 12. A companion bill (H.R. 4208) was introduced on March 19 in the House by Reps. Barney Frank (D-MA), Frank Guinta (R-NH), and eight other representatives. This legislation would redirect existing duties on imported fish and fish products to programs that will protect and increase the value of America's ocean fish and the jobs they support.

S. 2184/H.R. 4208: A POTENTIAL INVESTMENT OF OVER **\$100 MILLION PER YEAR** IN AMERICA'S FISHERIES

Based on the President's FY 2013 budget, this bill would receive \$124 million next year, which would be allocated as follows:

- **\$81.6 million** total to the regional grant program
 - **\$40.8 million** of the total amount divided proportionally among the regions (**\$5.1 million** per fishery management region).
 - **\$40.8 million** of the total amount divided among each region based on the economic impacts of commercial and recreational fishing in the regions.
- **\$23.3 million** to NOAA for transfer to the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific interstate fisheries commissions; for programs to promote U.S. seafood; to improve fisheries management through research and monitoring; for disaster relief and to improve shore-side infrastructure; and for special needs including management of highly migratory species.
- **\$11.7 million** to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for its Operations, Research, and Facilities account.
- **\$7.4 million** half split equally among the regional fishery management councils and half to NOAA for program administration.

S. 2184/H.R. 4208 represents a significant commitment to the future of fish and fishing in America. The bill would **more than double the funding currently available for regional fishery management**, and **increase the overall federal investment in fisheries research and management by approximately 25 percent** without adding to the burden of U.S. taxpayers. This bill is an excellent investment: when all U.S. fish populations reach healthy levels they will **generate \$216 billion in annual sales impacts and support 2.5 million full and part-time U.S. jobs.**²

¹ Based on the five year average of import duties transferred to the Secretary of Commerce, 2008-12.

² These estimates are the combined from two sources: Testimony of Eric Schwaab on Eight Bills that would Amend the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act before the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, p. 3, December 1, 2011: <http://www.legislative.noaa.gov/Testimony/Schwaab120111.pdf>; and the comparable commercial and recreational estimates from National Marine Fisheries Service, 2008, "Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2006," www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5/publication/fisheries_economics_2006.html.

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