



S. 2184 and H.R. 4208: *Investing in New England’s fisheries and fishermen*

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 new legislation would re-direct existing revenues from duties on imported fish products (estimated at \$124 million for FY 2013) to support critical research, monitoring, and management programs, as well as provide assistance to fishermen and fishing communities.

This bill would create a regionally-based grant program that would direct 70 percent of the money (approximately **\$85 million** in FY 2013) per year to fund fisheries research and management programs. The regional fishery management councils would establish investment committees responsible for identifying funding priorities and making recommendations on which specific projects should be supported in each region. The remaining 30% of funds would be used by the Secretary of Commerce for special fisheries needs and problems, including up to 10 percent for the NOAA general operating fund.

“The strength of Sen. Kerry’s bill is that it puts the decisions about what fisheries projects to fund in the hands of regional fishermen and scientists who bring their local perspectives and expertise to the issue.”

—John Pappalardo, CEO,
Cape Cod Commercial Hook
Fishermen’s Association

Stronger New England fisheries and fishing communities

New England is home to historic fishing communities and some of the nation’s most valuable fisheries. The region is still recovering from decades of overfishing that have left fish populations depleted and the businesses that depend on them struggling. Funding through this bill could help restore New England’s fish and fisheries by addressing these critical needs:

Needs	Examples of Programs Eligible for Funding
Better incorporation of fishermen’s knowledge and expertise into fisheries research and management.	<i>Cooperative fisheries research</i>
Expand and increase assessments to provide managers’ with access to more timely and robust data.	<i>Stock surveys, assessments and analyses</i>
More accurate information on the amount and type of all fish caught and whether they are landed and sold or discarded at sea.	<i>Catch monitoring and reporting programs</i>
Facilitate the introduction of new, more selective fishing gear to avoid capture of non-target wildlife.	<i>Conservation engineering technologies and methods (e.g., environmentally friendly gear)</i>
Assist fishermen by providing access to capital to gain entry to fisheries.	<i>Permit banks, community fishing associations</i>
Mitigate the financial impact of significant quota reductions.	<i>Fishery disaster assistance</i>

This bill would restore the original intent of a law designed to invest directly in U.S. fisheries through revenues from duties on fish products. Since 1979, the majority of these funds have been diverted into the general operating account of NOAA. By directing these funds back to their original fishery management purposes, S. 2184/H.R. 4208 would bolster our nation's commercial and recreational fisheries, which support an estimated 1 million jobs. This bill makes good economic *and* environmental sense.

For more information, please contact:

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For additional resources, visit us at www.EndOverfishing.org.