



S. 2184 and H.R. 4208

Investing in the South Atlantic'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.

*"Fisheries management should be about building bridges between the fishing communities and fisheries managers-- this bill will help build such bridges."
- Don DeMaria, commercial fisherman, Summerland Key, FL*

Stronger South Atlantic fisheries and fishing communities

The sheer diversity of fish in the South Atlantic region has attracted commercial fishermen and anglers alike for decades. Many of these species are long-lived and late to reproduce, making them vulnerable to overfishing. Managers need timely information to help manage fishing so that populations remain healthy for the long-term and fishermen have plenty to catch. Funding through this bill could help restore the South Atlantic's fish and fisheries by addressing these critical needs:

Needs	Examples of Programs Eligible for Funding under S. 2184/H.R. 4208
Fisheries research and assessments, particularly for recreationally-important species.	Stock surveys, assessments and analyses
More accurate and timely information on recreational catch.	Improvements to recreational fishing data collection systems including MRFSS/MRIP
Selective fishing gear and other technologies to avoid capture of non-target wildlife (bycatch) or improve their survival rates if caught.	Conservation engineering technologies and methods (e.g., environmentally friendly gear)
Invasive species (e.g., Lionfish) research and management	Habitat restoration and protection
Better incorporation of fishermen's knowledge and expertise into fisheries research and management	Cooperative fisheries research

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.