

H.R. 2012, a bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to authorize competitive grants to support programs that address needs of fishing communities.

Sponsor – Congressman Keating (D-Massachusetts)

Introduced on April 23, 2015

Referred to the House Natural Resources Committee

Section 1 – Shoreside Commercial Fishing Support Grants. This section would amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make competitive grants to support programs that address the needs of fishing communities pursuant to National Standard 8.

The bill lists the types of programs that would be eligible: preventative health services and assessments; mental health services and assessments; substance abuse prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and education; immunization services; financial planning and education; community responses to tragedies at sea; and several types of workforce development training.

The bill lists the types of entities that would be eligible to receive the grants including: municipalities; port authorities; other appropriate public entities; not-for-profit organizations; or other qualified persons that provide shoreside commercial fishing support.

The bill would require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct demographic surveys of commercial fishermen and their families to identify the needs of fishing communities which could be addressed by the grant program.

The bill would authorize \$8 million for 10 years (Fiscal Years 2016 – 2025).