



**To:** House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members  
**From:** House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Staff  
**Date:** October 8, 2021  
**Subject:** Markup of 19 Bills: H.R. 260 (Soto), H.R. 422 (Young of Alaska), H.R. 570 (McEachin), H.R. 897 (Ruiz), H.R. 1286 (Clyburn), H.R. 1931 (Matsui), H.R. 1975 (Issa), H.R. 2024 (Hoyer), H.R. 2074 (Young of Alaska), H.R. 2088 (Fleischmann), H.R. 2107 (Rutherford), H.R. 2643 (Brownley), H.R. 2773 (Dingell), H.R. 2930 (Leger-Fernandez), H.R. 2075 (Huffman), H.R. 3222 (Sewell), H.R. 3670 (Neguse), H.R. 4881 (Grijalva), and H.R. 5221 (Grijalva)

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The Natural Resources Committee will hold a markup on 19 bills on **Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. EDT** online via Cisco WebEx. The 19 bills include H.R. 260 (Soto), H.R. 422 (Young of Alaska), H.R. 570 (McEachin), H.R. 897 (Ruiz), H.R. 1286 (Clyburn), H.R. 1931 (Matsui), H.R. 1975 (Issa), H.R. 2024 (Hoyer), H.R. 2074 (Young of Alaska), H.R. 2088 (Fleischmann), H.R. 2107 (Rutherford), H.R. 2643 (Brownley), H.R. 2773 (Dingell), H.R. 2930 (Leger-Fernandez), H.R. 2075 (Huffman), H.R. 3222 (Sewell), H.R. 3670 (Neguse), H.R. 4881 (Grijalva), and H.R. 5221 (Grijalva).

Member offices are requested to notify Baylee Seeman ([Baylee.Seeman@mail.house.gov](mailto:Baylee.Seeman@mail.house.gov)) by **4:30 p.m. EDT on Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, if their Member intends to participate in person in the hearing room or remotely from his/her laptop from another location. Submissions for the hearing record must be submitted through the Committee's electronic repository at [HNRCDocs@mail.house.gov](mailto:HNRCDocs@mail.house.gov). Please contact David DeMarco ([David.DeMarco@mail.house.gov](mailto:David.DeMarco@mail.house.gov)) or Everett Winnick ([EverettWinnick@mail.house.gov](mailto:EverettWinnick@mail.house.gov)) should any technical difficulties arise.

## I. KEY MESSAGES

- The Ranking Member expects the following bills to move through regular order: H.R. 160 (Soto), H.R. 570 (McEachin), H.R. 2643 (Brownley), H.R. 3075 (Huffman).
  - H.R. 160 (Soto): The Grijalva ANS undermines the premise of this bipartisan bill by allowing more funding to be absorbed by the bureaucracy, rather than utilized by states and territories for coral reef restoration.
  - H.R. 570 (McEachin): The bill ignores current industry practices that improve worker and environmental safety, creates duplicative requirements and has the potential to overload regulators with bureaucratic reports, distracting them from the critical elements of their mission.



- H.R. 2634 (Brownley): This bill would impose new unnecessary burdens for offshore pipeline owners, establish arbitrary fees on private industry and create duplicative regulatory requirements.
- H.R. 3075 (Huffman): Some U.S. seafood harvesters and processors have expressed concerns that the expansion of programs proposed in this legislation increases the burden of compliance on industry.
- The Unanimous Consent package is expected to include H.R. 422 (Young of Alaska), H.R. 876 (Ruiz), H.R. 1286 (Clyburn), H.R. 1689 (Gonzalez-Colon of PR), H.R. 1931 (Matsui), H.R. 1975 (Issa), H.R. 2024 (Hoyer), H.R. 2074 (Young of Alaska), H.R. 2088 (Fleischmann), H.R. 2107 (Rutherford), H.R. 2930 (Leger-Fernandez), H.R. 3222 (Sewell), H.R. 3670 (Neguse), H.R. 4881 (Grijalva), and H.R. 5221 (Grijalva).

## II. EXPECTED LEGISLATION

### **H.R. 160 (Soto), Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021**

The bill amends and reauthorizes the Coral Reef Conservation Act (P.L. 106-562) through Fiscal Year 2026. As introduced, H.R. 160 changes the current funding model by requiring the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to direct a large share of federal funding directly to states and impacted communities as block grants. The block grants would be matched at the state and local levels, with some exceptions.

Chairman Grijalva is expected to offer an Amendment in the Nature of the Substitute (ANS) that makes the following changes to the bill:

- Gives NOAA the ability to use state block grant funding for cooperative agreements under the state block grant. This change could reduce the amount of block grants, which provide the maximum flexibility and local control for the restoration and management of coral reef ecosystems.
- Eliminates the inclusion of non-voting members from the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Western Pacific, and Caribbean Fishery Management Council from the Coral Reef Task Force.
- Increases the overall authorization of appropriations to \$190 million from \$170 million over five years for the NOAA block grants.
- Provides an additional \$20 million over five years for the Department of the Interior to establish a Coral Reef Initiative Program within the Office of Insular Affairs. The introduced bill did not provide appropriations to support the new program.

Over 30 stakeholders,<sup>1</sup> including the American Sportfishing Association, National Marine Manufacturers Association, Florida Association of Counties, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, have expressed support for the introduced bill, noting it would “better support capacity-building at the state and local levels and to expand active

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<sup>1</sup> [https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Supporting\\_Organization.pdf](https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Supporting_Organization.pdf)

restoration efforts to turn the tide on reef degradation caused by coral disease, bleaching, natural disasters and human activities.”<sup>2</sup> The Grijalva ANS undermines the premise of this bipartisan bill by allowing more funding to be absorbed by the bureaucracy, rather than utilized by states and territories for coral reef restoration. *The Ranking Member is aware of concerns with the bill and it is expected to move under regular order.*

The hearing memo for H.R. 160 prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Kiel Weaver ([Kiel.Weaver@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kiel.Weaver@mail.house.gov)) or Annick Miller ([Annick.Miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:Annick.Miller@mail.house.gov)).

### **H.R. 442 (Young of Alaska), the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Land Transfer Act**

The bill would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to convey by warranty deed, within two years of enactment, two parcels totaling 10.87 acres of federal land in Sitka, Alaska, to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) for use in connection with health and social services related programs. SEARHC’s Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital (MEH) ([Lot 7](#)) and Community Health Services building ([Lot 4](#)), currently occupy the 10.87 acres. Site control would enable SEARHC to renovate existing facilities and construct new healthcare facilities to provide improved services. A map of the land that would be transferred to SEARHC can be viewed [here](#). *The Ranking Member supports, and the bill is expected to move by unanimous consent.*

The hearing memo prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Ken Degenfelder ([Ken.Degenfelder@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ken.Degenfelder@mail.house.gov)) and Brandon Ashley ([Brandon.Ashley@mail.house.gov](mailto:Brandon.Ashley@mail.house.gov))

### **H.R. 570 (McEachin), Offshore Accountability Act of 2021**

This bill requires oil and gas operators to report to the Secretary of the Interior any “critical system” failures at offshore facilities within 30 days of the failure. While this bill attempts to prevent disasters such as the Deepwater Horizon incident from reoccurring, it ignores new practices developed by the industry to avoid such incidents in the future and is in some cases duplicative of existing requirements and regulations imposed by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. The bill has the potential to overload regulators with routine reports, potentially distracting them from the critical elements of their mission. *The Ranking Member is aware of concerns with the bill, and it is expected to move under regular order.*

The hearing memo for H.R. 570 prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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<sup>2</sup> [https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/DEP\\_FWC\\_Support\\_for\\_Restoring\\_Resilient\\_Reefs\\_Act.pdf](https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/DEP_FWC_Support_for_Restoring_Resilient_Reefs_Act.pdf)

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**H.R. 897 (Ruiz), To take certain lands in California into trust for the benefit of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and for other purposes.**

H.R. 897 would place approximately 2,560 acres of land in the State of California owned by the Agua Caliente Tribe into trust within their reservation. The lands were acquired through a 2018 land exchange with the Bureau of Land Management pursuant to Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000.<sup>3</sup> The tribe has stated that the intended use of the 2,560 acres are for conservation purposes. Gaming pursuant to Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA)<sup>4</sup> would be prohibited by the legislation. A map of the lands taken into trust are can be viewed [here](#). *The Ranking Member supports, and the bill is expected to move by unanimous consent.*

The hearing memo prepared by Committee Republican staff in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Ken Degenfelder ([Ken.Degenfelder@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ken.Degenfelder@mail.house.gov)) and Brandon Ashley ([Brandon.Ashley@mail.house.gov](mailto:Brandon.Ashley@mail.house.gov))

**H.R. 1286 (Clyburn), Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor Act of 2021**

This bill establishes a new Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor in North and South Carolina to connect the greatest concentration of the Carolinas' Revolutionary War sites including battlefields, historic communities, farmsteads, and landscapes. Congress, through Public Law 109-338, directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating the Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor. The National Park Service (NPS) completed this study in 2015 and determined the study area met each of the ten criteria<sup>5</sup> for designation as a heritage corridor. This bill authorizes federal assistance for 15 years and provides up to \$10 million for the operation of the heritage corridor, of which not more than \$1 million may be made available in any fiscal year. Chairman Grijalva will offer an ANS to conform the language used in H.R. 1286 to that which is typically used in national heritage area (NHA) authorizing legislation and to add a new legislative map. An amendment to the ANS will be offered to add a standard 50% cost-sharing requirement. *Ranking Member Westerman supports the bill, as amended, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.*

The hearing memo for H.R. 1286 prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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<sup>3</sup> Public Law 106-351.

<sup>4</sup> 25 USC 2701 et seq.

<sup>5</sup> For a list of the ten criteria used by NPS for evaluation of candidate NHAs see: [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/upload/NHA-Feasibility-Study-Guidelines\\_FINAL-Revisions-2019\\_508-compliant.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/upload/NHA-Feasibility-Study-Guidelines_FINAL-Revisions-2019_508-compliant.pdf)

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### **H.R. 1931 (Matsui), Japanese American Confinement Education Act**

In recent decades, Congress and several Presidential Administrations have preserved the remnants of Japanese confinement sites through various means, including through NPS designation, National Historic Landmark and National Register of Historic Places designations, and grants to outside organizations to preserve non-federally owned sites. Public Law 109-441 established the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant program, which authorized up to \$38 million for the entire life of the grant program to protect, restore, and acquire historic sites. Since 2009, roughly \$36 million has been appropriated and distributed to grantees through the program.<sup>6</sup>

H.R. 1931 would establish a new competitive grant program to award grants to Japanese American history museums to educate individuals in the United States on the historical importance of Japanese American confinement during World War II. The grant program includes priority consideration criteria, which seems to have the goal of directing money toward a single museum, likely the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, California.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, the bill reauthorizes the JACS grant program within NPS, which is due to expire soon.

An amendment will be offered at the markup to reinstate the JACS program sunset by increasing the authorization cap for the JACS grant program by \$28 million. The amendment will also provide \$10 million for the new competitive grant program for Japanese American museums for a total of \$38 million, thus matching the original authorization amount of the JACS program. *Ranking Member Westerman supports the bill, as amended, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.*

The hearing memo for H.R. 1931 prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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### **H.R. 1975 (Issa), Pala Band of Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2021**

This bill would place approximately 721 acres of land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the Pala Band of Mission Indians. The tribe is located in southern California in the town of Pala, CA, with the reservation totaling approximately 12,000 acres. According to the tribe, the 721 acres of the 1,700 former Gregory Canyon landfill project site were purchased by the tribe for \$13 million.<sup>8</sup> A map of the lands to be placed

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<sup>6</sup> Statement of Joy Beasley, Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Concerning H.R. 1931, 1 (2021). <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/II/II10/20210527/112702/HHRG-117-II10-Wstate-BeasleyJ-20210527.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.janm.org/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.indianz.com/News/2016/11/18/pala-band-pays-13m-to-protect-sacred-land.asp>.

into trust can be viewed [here](#). *The Ranking Member supports, and the bill is expected to move by unanimous consent.*

A markup memo prepared by Committee Republican staff in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress may be viewed [here](#).

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### **H.R. 2024 (Hoyer), Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Act**

This bill establishes the Southern Maryland NHA, made up of segments of four Maryland counties, and designates the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland as the management entity. A feasibility study of this proposed NHA has not been completed. This area is notable for being the home of the first English colony to pass a freedom of religion law in 1632, which likely later led to the protection of religious freedom in the First Amendment.<sup>9</sup> The area also serves as home to several national historic and scenic trails as well as sites related to the American Revolutionary War, War of 1812, American Civil War, WWI and WWII, and the Project Mercury human spaceflight program.<sup>10</sup> This bill authorizes federal assistance for 15 years and provides up to \$10 million for the operation of the NHA, of which not more than \$1 million may be made available in any fiscal year. Chairman Grijalva will offer an ANS to conform the language used in H.R. 2024 to that which is typically used in other NHA legislation and add a legislative map. An amendment to the ANS will be offered to add a standard 50% cost-sharing requirement. *Ranking Member Westerman supports the bill, as amended, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.*

The hearing memo for H.R. 2024 prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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### **H.R. 2074 (Young of Alaska), Indian Buffalo Management Act**

H.R. 2074 would authorize the Department of the Interior (DOI) to establish a permanent program to develop and promote the capacity of Indian tribes and tribal organizations to manage buffalo and buffalo habitat. DOI would do this through contracts, cooperative agreements and grants to Indian tribes and tribal organizations. American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) have also had a long standing cultural and spiritual relationship with buffalo which continues to this day. Indian tribes used the buffalo for subsistence purposes for thousands of years, incorporating it into everyday diets and livelihoods. By the end of the 19th century however, buffalo were near extinction. As a result, conservation

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<sup>9</sup> John R. Vile, Maryland Toleration Act of 1649, <https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/868/maryland-toleration-act-of-1649> (last visited Oct 7, 2021).

<sup>10</sup> Cardin, Hoyer Renew Push to Make Southern Maryland a New National Heritage Area, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland (2021), <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-hoyer-renew-push-to-make-southern-maryland-a-new-national-heritage-area> (last visited Oct 7, 2021).

efforts were enacted to restore buffalo numbers. H.R. 2074 also authorizes \$14 million to be available for Indian tribes or an Indian organization. Last, the bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into agreements with Indian tribes or tribal organizations to dispose of surplus buffalo on federal land and transfer those buffalo to Indian lands. ***The Ranking Member supports, and the bill is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

A markup memo prepared by Committee Republican staff in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress may be viewed [here](#).

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**H.R. 2088 (Fleischmann), To take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and for other purposes.**

H.R. 2088 would place approximately 76.1 acres of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) land and 19.9 acres of permanent easements into trust for the for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Gaming on the land pursuant to IGRA would be prohibited.

In 1984 and 1986,<sup>11</sup> TVA granted easements to the tribe after the completion of the Tellico Dam. The land covered by the easements constitute the parcels of land that would be placed into trust under this bill. The bill passed the House in the 115<sup>th</sup><sup>12</sup> and 116<sup>th</sup><sup>13</sup> Congresses under suspension of the rules. A map of the land to be placed into trust under the bill can be viewed [here](#). ***The Ranking Member supports, and the bill is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

A markup memo prepared by Committee Republican staff in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress may be viewed [here](#).

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**H.R. 2107 (Rutherford), Nation's Oldest Port National Heritage Area Act**

This bill establishes the Nation's Oldest Port NHA, composed of four natural watersheds across four northeast Florida counties. Its boundaries include the Port of Jacksonville at the mouth of the St. Johns River and historic St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city founded in 1565. The Nation's Oldest Port Heritage Area Alliance, Inc., a nonprofit, will prepare and submit a management plan for the NHA while the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum will perform fiscal duties for the NHA, receiving 10% of funding for the first five years. The bill authorizes federal assistance for 15 years. Chairman Grijalva will offer an ANS to conform the language used in H.R. 2107 to that which is typically used in NHA legislation

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<sup>11</sup> The easements were granted pursuant to Public Law 87-852.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/146?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22eastern+band%22%7D&s=3&r=3>.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/453?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22eastern+band%22%7D&s=4&r=1>.

and add a legislative map. An amendment to the ANS will be offered to add a standard 50% cost-sharing requirement. ***Ranking Member Westerman supports the bill, as amended, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

The hearing memo for H.R. 2107 prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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### **H.R. 2643 (Brownley), Offshore Pipeline Safety Act**

This bill directs the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) and BSEE to:

- Finalize regulations for the inspection of offshore pipelines by third parties and for installation of leak detection systems on offshore pipelines;
- Study the environmental risks associated with decommissioning oil and gas pipelines; and
- Assess new fees on offshore pipeline operators.

This bill would impose new unnecessary burdens for offshore pipeline owners, establish arbitrary fees on private industry and create duplicative regulatory requirements. ***The Ranking Member is aware of concerns with the bill, and it is expected to move under regular order.***

The hearing memo for H.R. 2643 prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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### **H.R. 2930 (Leger-Fernandez), Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2021**

H.R. 2930 would expand legal protections to Native American tribal artifacts and sacred object by amending both the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA)<sup>14</sup> and the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)<sup>15</sup> to provide increased criminal penalties for repeat traffickers of Native American human remains or cultural items. It bans the export of illegally obtained Native American cultural objects and establishes penalties for violations of this ban. The bill establishes an export certification system to allow for the export of appropriate items. To incentivize repatriation, the bill allows immunity from prosecution if an individual voluntarily surrenders to the appropriate tribe the Native American cultural objects in his or her possession, no later than two years after enactment. The bill also requires DOI to form an interagency working group with the goals of facilitating repatriation of items, protecting items currently in an Indian tribe's possession, and improve implementations of NAGPRA and ARPA.

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<sup>14</sup> 25 USC 3001 et seq.

<sup>15</sup> 16 USC 470aa et seq.



An amendment will be offered at the markup to amend section 10 of the bill, which as drafted would require DOI to promulgate regulations to approve or deny item export applications. The amendment would instead establish a specific process and timelines by which DOI will consider applications. Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations will have nine business days to respond to inquiries from DOI. Further, DOI would also be required to approve or deny applications within 30 business days if credible evidence is provided that an item is ineligible for exportation. ***The Ranking Member supports the bill, as amended, and the bill is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

A hearing memo prepared by Committee Republican staff Congress may be viewed [here](#).

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### **[H.R. 3075 \(Huffman\), Illegal Fishing and Forced Labor Prevention Act](#)**

NOAA launched the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) in 2018 as a risk-based traceability program. Currently, SIMP applies to thirteen species: Abalone, Atlantic cod, Blue crab (Atlantic), Dolphinfish (Mahi Mahi), Grouper, King crab (red), Pacific cod, Red snapper, Sea cucumber, Sharks, Shrimp, Swordfish, and Tuna (Albacore, Bigeye, Skipjack, Yellowfin, and Bluefin).<sup>16</sup>

H.R. 3075 expands SIMP to all imported seafood species and authorizes \$100 million overall for fiscal years 2021 through 2025 for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to expand enforcement of the program.

Seafood importers are currently required to obtain a NOAA Fisheries International Fisheries Trade Permit for the species listed above. At the time of entry, the importer is required to report essential information pertaining to the initial harvest and the initial offload of the fish. This includes vessel name, vessel country (flag state), location of harvest, method of harvest (gear type), place of first off-load, and the responsible entity receiving the fish, as well as other information.<sup>17</sup>

In April 2021, NOAA released its report on the implementation of SIMP. The report found that the majority of audits were in compliance with federal laws and only a small number warranted enforcement actions.<sup>18</sup> However, in August 2021, NOAA submitted a report to Congress on "Improving International Fisheries Management" identifying Mexico as not taking effective action to address illegal fishing in U.S. waters, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico, where since 2015 the USCG has prepared 248 cases of illegal fishing for prosecution.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/international/seafood-import-monitoring-program>

<sup>17</sup> <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2021-05/SIMP%20Implementation%20Report%202021.pdf?null>

<sup>18</sup> <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2021-05/SIMP%20Implementation%20Report%202021.pdf?null>

<sup>19</sup> <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/202108/2021ReporttoCongressonImprovingInternationalFisheriesManagement.pdf>

During consideration of H.R. 3075, the Natural Resources Committee received a letter from some U.S. seafood harvesters and processors that expressed concerns that an expansion of SIMP increases the burden of compliance on industry and its application to U.S.-harvested fish that are processed overseas and brought back to the United States.<sup>20</sup>

In addition, the bill expands the Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) Class A requirement to fishing processors, tenders, and vessels of more than 50 feet in length. AIS is a shipboard broadcast system that provides vessel information, including the vessel's identity, type, position, course, speed, navigational status, and other information. Committee staff has been notified that Reps. Garret Graves (R-LA) and Huffman may offer an amendment that would maintain the vessel size requirement at 65 feet. ***The Ranking Member is aware of concerns with the bill, and it is expected to move under regular order.***

The hearing memo for H.R. 3075 prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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### **H.R. 3222 (Sewell), Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area Act**

This bill establishes the Alabama Black Belt NHA, comprised of land in 19 Alabama counties, and designates the Center for the Study of the Black Belt at the University of West Alabama as the management entity. The Black Belt region of Alabama stretches across the lower-central portion of Alabama, from the eastern border of Mississippi to the western border of southern Georgia. The Black Belt is characterized by its distinctive geography and its exceptionally fertile black soil. The region is recognized by many as the center of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Several events pivotal in the civil rights movement took place in the region including the Montgomery bus boycott, the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, and the march from Selma to Montgomery, which helped lead to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This bill authorizes federal assistance for 15 years and provides up to \$10 million for the operation of the NHA, of which not more than \$1 million may be made available in any fiscal year. Chairman Grijalva will offer an ANS to conform the language used in H.R. 3222 to that which is typically used in NHA authorizing legislation. An amendment to the ANS will be offered to add a standard 50% cost-sharing requirement. ***Ranking Member Westerman supports the bill, as amended, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

The hearing memo for H.R. 3222 prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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<sup>20</sup> [https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/u.s.\\_seafood\\_producer\\_house\\_simp\\_letter.pdf](https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/u.s._seafood_producer_house_simp_letter.pdf)

## **H.R. 3670 (Neguse), SOAR Act**

The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture issue special recreation permits and charge fees for specialized uses of federal lands such as outfitting, group activities, recreation events, and motor vehicle use under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). In the intervening years since the passage of FLREA, a flood of complex rules, regulations, guidance, and court decisions have gradually increased the cost of permit administration. The SOAR Act is intended to reduce the cost and complexity of recreating on federal lands by:

- 1) Reducing special recreation permit fees;
- 2) Streamlining the permitting process for recreation and increasing recreational access;
- 3) Increasing flexibility for outdoor leaders by allowing them to engage in activities that are substantially similar to the activity specified in their permit;
- 4) Making more recreation opportunities available by directing the agencies to offer more short-term permits and creating a program for sharing unused permit service days between permit holders;
- 5) Simplifying the permitting process for trips involving more than one land management agency by authorizing the agencies to issue a single joint permit covering the lands of multiple agencies; and
- 6) Reducing barriers to access for State universities, city recreation departments, and school districts.

The basic framework of the SOAR Act was originally a Republican-led effort and several iterations have been introduced beginning with the Guides and Outfitters (GO Act) in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. The GO Act later passed the House in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. In the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, Democrats came to a compromise on the bill and then-Representative Haaland and Representative Curtis co-led the re-branded SOAR Act. This Congress, Representative Neguse co-opted this effort and chose to introduce the bill without any Republican cosponsors. At the legislative hearing, Republicans voiced frustration as Committee Democrats hijacked yet another Republican bill as their own, continuing a disturbing trend this Congress. In recognition of their error, Committee Democrats have agreed to move a priority of Representative Curtis', an important public lands bill for Utah, the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act, during an upcoming hearing. Due to this concession, the agreement of Rep. Curtis, and general support for the underlying policy of the bill, Committee Republicans dropped their objections to advancing the bill *through the Committee only. Ranking Member Westerman supports the bill, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.*

The hearing memo for H.R. 3670 prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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### **H.R. 4881 (Grijalva), the Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition Act**

H.R. 4881 would, at the request of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, require the Secretary of the Interior to place into trust any land owned by the tribe within the amended 2021 Pascua Yaqui Tribal-State Gaming Compact area.<sup>21</sup> The legislation is in furtherance of the Compact between the Tribe and the State of Arizona, which provides that for the Tribe to open a third gaming facility, the land must be taken into trust by an Act of Congress.<sup>22</sup> According to the tribe, it currently owns several parcels totaling 31.79 acres within the compact area and the intended uses for these parcels are for gaming activities and conservation purposes. H.R. 4881 does not provide specificity on which parcels of land within the Compact area would be placed into trust. A map of the Compact area and lands currently owned by the tribe can be viewed [here](#). ***The Ranking Member supports, and the bill is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

The hearing memo prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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### **H.R. 5221 (Grijalva), the Urban Indian Health Confer Act**

In 2014, the Indian Health Service (IHS) established the policy to confer with Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) consistent with statute.<sup>23</sup> According to the IHS, the policy serves as a guide when the Agency seeks input from UIOs on health matters. According to the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH), other agencies within HHS that provide services to AI/ANs do not have policies regarding conferring with Urban Indian Organizations. These agencies are only required to consult with Indian tribes, consistent with Executive Order 13175.<sup>24</sup> Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Urban Indian health organizations were provided limited notice of HHS policy actions<sup>25</sup> H.R. 5221, if enacted, would require all agencies within HHS to establish a UIO confer policy. ***The Ranking Member supports, and the bill is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

The hearing memo prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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<sup>21</sup> Amended Arizona Tribal/State Gaming Compact August 10, 2021.  
[https://gaming.az.gov/sites/default/files/2021%20Amended%20and%20Restated%20Compact%20-%20EXEMPLAR%20COPY\\_0.pdf](https://gaming.az.gov/sites/default/files/2021%20Amended%20and%20Restated%20Compact%20-%20EXEMPLAR%20COPY_0.pdf).

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> 25 U.S.C. § 1660d(b).

<sup>24</sup> [https://mcusercontent.com/97bf83f5514a3035e7978c5b2/files/9a779961-5442-d519-3c67-45a9d9c7de12/Urban\\_Confer\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_NCUIH\\_D157\\_V8.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/97bf83f5514a3035e7978c5b2/files/9a779961-5442-d519-3c67-45a9d9c7de12/Urban_Confer_Fact_Sheet_NCUIH_D157_V8.pdf).

<sup>25</sup> *Id.*

### **III. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)**

Ramseyers for the respective bills can be viewed in the hearing memos provided by the Committee Republican staff.