

## HR 1207

### Healthy Fisheries through Better Science Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Public Lands and Natural Resources

**Introduced:** Mar 2, 2015

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans. (Mar 23, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1207>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** VA • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 23, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

## Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## **Healthy Fisheries through Better Science Act**

This bill amends the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to require the Department of Commerce to develop and publish a plan to conduct stock assessments for all stocks of fish for which a fishery management plan is in effect. A "stock assessment" is an evaluation of the past, present, and future status of a stock of fish, including: (1) a range of life history characteristics, including the stock's geographical boundaries, age, growth, natural mortality, sexual maturity and reproduction, feeding habits, and habitat preferences; and (2) fishing for the stock. The plan must be developed and published on the same schedule as required for the fisheries research strategic plan.

The plan must: (1) establish schedules for conducting initial stock assessments and updating previously conducted assessments, and (2) identify data and analysis that would reduce uncertainty in and improve the accuracy of future stock assessments. A stock assessment is not required for a stock of fish in the plan if Commerce determines that the assessment is not necessary and justifies the determination in the Federal Register notice.

Commerce must develop and publish in the Federal Register guidelines to incorporate data, analysis, and stock assessments from nongovernmental sources into fisheries management decisions and to establish a registry of information providers. Commerce and Regional Fishery Management Councils must use all data and analyses that meet the guidelines published as the best scientific information available in fisheries management decisions, unless otherwise determined by the science and statistical committees of the Councils.

Commerce may not collect certain fishing permit fees and North Pacific Council fisheries research plan implementation fees before identifying the costs that will be recovered by such fee.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Mar 23, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.
- **Mar 2, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 2, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.