

HR 1213

RESCUE Whales Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Animals

Introduced: Feb 27, 2023

Current Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

Latest Action: Subcommittee Hearings Held. (Apr 18, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1213>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-7]

Party: Democratic • **State:** AZ • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho [D-MP-At Large]	D · MP		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-6]	D · MI		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Stansbury, Melanie Ann [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Sep 19, 2023
Rep. Kim, Andy [D-NJ-3]	D · NJ		Nov 29, 2023
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		Nov 29, 2023
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Jan 18, 2024
Rep. Amo, Gabe [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Mar 20, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Apr 18, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Animals

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Restoring Effective Science-based Conservation Under Environmental laws protecting Whales Act of 2023 or the RESCUE Whales Act of 2023

This bill repeals provisions under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 that (1) postpone a 2022 rule proposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that revises the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan, and (2) direct the NMFS to issue new regulations for fisheries. The existing plan includes requirements to reduce serious injuries to and deaths of endangered North Atlantic right whales, fin whales, and humpback whales caused by commercial fishing gear. The plan applies to commercial fisheries from Maine through Florida.

In 2021, the NMFS revised the plan and its requirements for fishing gear used by northeastern commercial lobster fisheries or Jonah crab trap/pot fisheries. In 2022, the NMFS provided notice that it intended to begin the rulemaking process to (1) further modify the plan to satisfy the requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA), and (2) implement more stringent requirements to reduce deaths and injuries caused by whales becoming entangled in fishing gear from commercial trap/pot and gillnet (a type of fishing net) fisheries along the east coast.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 deems the 2021 revisions to the plan as sufficient to meet the requirements of the MMPA and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. It also directs the NMFS to issue new regulations for such fisheries that take effect by December 31, 2028, and utilize existing and innovative gear technologies.

The bill, by repealing those provisions, allows the NMFS to proceed with the 2022 proposed rule and eliminates the requirement for the NMFS to issue regulations by 2028.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 18, 2023:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Mar 22, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries.
- **Feb 27, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 27, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.