

HR 1461

Coastal Seaweed Farm Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Mar 8, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries. (Apr 14, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1461>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]

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

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Peltola, Mary Sattler [D-AK-At Large]	D · AK		Mar 8, 2023
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Apr 20, 2023
Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]	D · MO		Apr 20, 2023
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		Apr 20, 2023
Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Apr 20, 2023
Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-47]	D · CA		May 22, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 8, 2023
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 17, 2023
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 14, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Coastal Seaweed Farm Act of 2023

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to (1) establish the Indigenous Seaweed Farming Fund, (2) prepare a joint study of coastal seaweed farming, and (3) issue regulations addressing seaweed farming.

The Indigenous Seaweed Farming Fund must provide grants to tribes, Native villages, tribal reservations, and specified Native people to support coastal seaweed farming, including for creating and maintaining coastal seaweed farms, purchasing equipment, and identifying and mitigating adverse impacts.

The joint study must analyze best practices for coastal seaweed farming that maximize potential benefits and avoid adverse effects on the surrounding environment. Within one year of the publication of the joint study, USDA and NOAA must issue regulations that

- ensure that systems of coastal seaweed farming maximize potential benefits and avoid potential adverse effects on the marine ecosystem, wildlife, fisheries, and surrounding communities;
- establish evaluation metrics to measure the impact and benefits of coastal seaweed farming on the marine ecosystem and surrounding communities; and
- establish related monitoring and reporting requirements.

The bill also requires the Food and Drug Administration to report to Congress on recommendations for improving the regulation of seaweed for human consumption. The recommendations must focus on standards and testing methods to identify, address, and prevent contamination by bacteria, heavy metals, and pathogens.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 14, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries.
- **Mar 17, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 8, 2023:** Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.