

S 3123

Modernizing Access to Our Public Waters Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Oct 25, 2023

Current Status: Received in the House.

Latest Action: Received in the House. (Dec 19, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3123>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]

Party: Republican • **State:** WY • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Oct 25, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Jun 12, 2024

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 6127	Related bill	Dec 18, 2024: Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 728.

Modernizing Access to Our Public Waters Act

This bill directs the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to standardize and publish data on public access to federal waterways for recreational use.

Specifically, the Forest Service and Interior must jointly develop and adopt interagency standards for the collection and dissemination of geospatial data relating to federal fishing restrictions and public recreational use of federal waterways. The standards must ensure compatibility and interoperability among applicable federal databases with respect to the collection and dissemination of such data.

Within five years of the bill's enactment, the Forest Service and Interior must also digitize and make publicly available online, as applicable, certain geographic information system data about (1) federal waterway restrictions, (2) federal waterway access and navigation information, and (3) federal fishing restrictions. Data on waterway restrictions, waterway access, and navigation must be updated at least annually, and data on fishing restrictions must be updated in real time as changes take effect.

Finally, the Forest Service and Interior must develop a process to allow members of the public to submit questions or comments about waterway restrictions, waterway access, and navigation.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 19, 2024:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 19, 2024:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 18, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 18, 2024:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S7145; text: CR S7145-7146)
- **Nov 21, 2024:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported by Senator Manchin with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Nov 21, 2024:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 595.
- **Nov 19, 2024:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jun 12, 2024:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining. Hearings held.
- **Oct 25, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Oct 25, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.