

Public Law 103-232
103d Congress

An Act

Apr. 11, 1994
[S. 476]

To reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

National Fish
and Wildlife
Foundation
Improvement
Act of 1994.

**TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL
FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ES-
TABLISHMENT ACT**

16 USC 3701
note.

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Improvement Act of 1994”.

SEC. 102. COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS WITH NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.

Section 2(b) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3701) is amended by inserting “and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration” after “the United States Fish and Wildlife Service”.

SEC. 103. MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FOUNDATION.

(a) **CONSULTATIONS REGARDING APPOINTMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3(b) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3702(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “The Secretary of the Interior shall consult with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere before appointing any Director of the Board.”

(2) **APPLICATION.**—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to appointments of Directors of the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **EXPANSION OF BOARD.**—Section 3(a) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3702(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “nine” and inserting “15”; and

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking “three” and inserting “4”.

(c) **INITIAL TERMS.**—Of the Directors on the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation first appointed pursuant to the amendment made by subsection (b)(1), notwithstanding

16 USC 3702
note.

16 USC 3702
note.

the second sentence of section 3(b) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3702(b))—

- (1) 2 shall be appointed to a term of 2 years;
- (2) 2 shall be appointed to a term of 4 years; and
- (3) 2 shall be appointed to a term of 6 years;

as specified by the Secretary of the Interior at the time of appointment.

(d) **COMPLETION OF APPOINTMENTS.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall appoint the additional members of the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation authorized by the amendment made by subsection (a), by not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

16 USC 3702
note.

(e) **AUTHORITY OF BOARD NOT AFFECTED.**—The authority of the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to take any action otherwise authorized by law shall not be affected by reason of the Secretary of the Interior not having completed the appointment of Directors of the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation pursuant to the amendment made by subsection (b)(1).

16 USC 3702
note.

SEC. 104. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.

(a) **REAUTHORIZATION.**—Section 10 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3709) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a) by striking “not to exceed \$15,000,000” and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting “\$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998.”; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION.**—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under this section are in addition to any amounts provided or available to the Foundation under any other Federal law.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—Section 10(b)(1) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(b)(1)) is amended by striking “paragraphs (2) and (3),” and inserting “paragraph (2),”.

SEC. 105. CONVEYANCE OF SENECAVILLE NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY.

Ohio.

(a) **CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the State of Ohio without reimbursement all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property known as the Senecaville National Fish Hatchery, located in Senecaville, Ohio, including—

- (1) all easements and water rights relating to that property, and
- (2) all land, improvements, and related personal property comprising that hatchery.

(b) **USE OF PROPERTY.**—All property and interests conveyed under this section shall be used by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the Ohio fishery resources management program.

(c) **REVERSIONARY INTEREST.**—All right, title, and interest in and to all property and interests conveyed under this section shall revert to the United States on any date on which any of the property or interests are used other than for the Ohio fishery resources management program.

Brownsville
Wetlands Policy
Act of 1994.
Texas.

TITLE II—BROWNSVILLE WETLANDS POLICY CENTER

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Brownsville Wetlands Policy Act of 1994".

SEC. 202. ESTABLISHMENT OF WETLANDS POLICY CENTER AT THE PORT OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER.**—For purposes of utilizing grants made by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service there may be established in accordance with this title, on property owned or held in trust by the Brownsville Navigation District at the Port of Brownsville, Texas, a wetlands policy center which shall be known as the "Brownsville Wetlands Policy Center at the Port of Brownsville, Texas" (in this title referred to as the "Center"). The Center shall be operated and maintained by the Port of Brownsville with programs to be administered by the University of Texas at Brownsville.

(b) **MISSION OF THE CENTER.**—The primary mission of the Center shall be to utilize the unique wetlands property at the Port of Brownsville and adjacent waters of South Texas to focus on wetland matters for the purposes of protecting, restoring, and maintaining the Lagoon Ecosystems of the Western Gulf of Mexico Region.

(c) **BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**—The Center shall be governed by a Board of Directors to oversee the management and financial affairs of the Center. The Board of Directors shall be cochaired by the Port of Brownsville, the University of Texas at Brownsville, and the designee of the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and shall include as members other representatives considered appropriate by those cochaIRS.

(d) **OVERSIGHT OF THE CENTER.**—

(1) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Board of Directors of the Center shall prepare an annual report and submit it through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to the Congress.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Annual reports under this subsection shall cover the programs, projects, activities, and accomplishments of the Center. The reports shall include a review of the budget of the Center, including all sources of funding received to carry out Center operations.

(3) **AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.**—The Board of Directors of the Center shall make available all pertinent information and records to allow preparation of annual reports under this subsection.

(4) **GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall periodically submit to the Congress reports on the operations of the Center.

SEC. 203. GRANTS.

The Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, make grants to the Center for use for carrying out activities of the Center.

Reports.

SEC. 204. LEASE.

The Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, subject to the availability of appropriations, may enter into a long-term lease with the Port of Brownsville for use by the Center of wetlands property owned by the Port of Brownsville. Terms of the lease shall be negotiated, and the lease shall be signed by both parties, prior to the disposal of any Federal funds pursuant to this title. The lease shall include a provision authorizing the Director to terminate the lease at any time.

SEC. 205. OTHER REQUIREMENTS.

As conditions of receiving assistance under this title—

(1) the University of Texas at Brownsville shall make available to the Center for fiscal years 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997—

(A) administrative office space;

(B) classroom space; and

(C) other in-kind contributions for the Center, including overhead and personnel; and

(2) the Port of Brownsville shall make available up to 7,000 acres of Port Property for the programs, projects, and activities of the Center.

The Board of Directors of the Center shall include in their annual report under section 202(d) a statement of whether these conditions have been met.

SEC. 206. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1994, \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 1995, \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 1996; and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 1997, for making grants to the Center under section 203, including for use for the establishment, operation, maintenance, and management of the Center.

SEC. 207. RELATIONSHIP OF CENTER WITH THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND SERVICES, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS.

None of the funds appropriated pursuant to this title may be used to relocate any of the administrative operations of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service from the Center for Environmental Studies and Services Building on the campus of Corpus Christi State University, to the Brownsville Wetlands Policy Center at the Port of Brownsville, Texas, established pursuant to this title.

TITLE III—WALTER B. JONES CENTER FOR THE SOUNDS AT THE POCOSIN LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

North
Carolina.
16 USC 668dd
note.

SEC. 301. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, located in northeastern North Carolina, provides unique opportunities for observing and interpreting the biological richness of the region's estuaries and wetlands.

(2) Although there are 10 national wildlife refuges in eastern North Carolina, not one has an educational or interpretative center for visitors.

(3) The State of North Carolina, Tyrrell County, the town of Columbia, the Conservation Fund, and private citizens have proposed to enter into a partnership with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to establish an educational and interpretative facility to be known as the Center for the Sounds.

(4) Establishment of the Center for the Sounds would bestow economic benefits upon Tyrrell County and the town of Columbia.

(5) The Federal Government has designated the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary system of northeastern North Carolina as an estuary of national concern.

(6) Throughout his congressional career, the Honorable Walter B. Jones was a strong supporter of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(7) During his years of service in the House of Representatives, Walter B. Jones supported the establishment and expansion of National Wildlife Refuges in eastern North Carolina; these include 6 new National Wildlife Refuges established in his district, including the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge and the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, which are respectively the third largest and fifth largest National Wildlife Refuges east of the Mississippi River.

(8) Walter B. Jones helped increase refuge acreage in his district by over 303,000 acres, thus ensuring the protection of these lands for wildlife habitat and public recreation.

(9) Walter B. Jones' support for reintroducing endangered red wolves into the wild at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge was a major factor in securing public acceptance of, and support for, this first successful effort to reintroduce endangered predators into formerly occupied habitat.

(10) Walter B. Jones devoted much of his congressional career, including his years as Chairman of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, to the conservation of fish and wildlife, for the benefit of the Nation and the people of North Carolina.

(11) Walter B. Jones should most appropriately be recognized for his work on behalf of fish and wildlife conservation by having the Center for the Sounds at the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge System named in his honor.

SEC. 302. AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE FACILITY.

The Secretary of the Interior may, subject to the availability of appropriations, construct and operate a facility at the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Tyrrell County, North Carolina, which shall be known as the "Walter B. Jones Center for the Sounds", for the following purposes:

(1) Providing public opportunities, facilities, and resources to study the natural history and natural resources of northeastern North Carolina.

(2) Offering a variety of environmental educational programs and interpretive exhibits.

(3) Fostering an awareness and understanding of the interactions among wildlife, estuarine and wetland ecosystems, and human activities.

(4) Providing office space and facilities for refuge administration, research, education, and related activities.

SEC. 303. DESIGN.

The Secretary of the Interior shall ensure that the design, size, and location of a facility constructed under this title are consistent with the cultural and natural history of the area with which the facility will be concerned.

SEC. 304. COST SHARING.

The Secretary of the Interior may accept contributions of funds from non-Federal sources to pay the costs of operating and maintaining the facility authorized under this title, and shall take appropriate steps to seek to obtain such contributions.

SEC. 305. REPORT.

Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to the Congress on progress made in designing and constructing a facility under this title, including steps taken under section 304 to obtain contributions and any such contributions that have been pledged to or received by the United States.

Approved April 11, 1994.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 476 (H.R. 2684):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 103-249 accompanying H.R. 2684 (Comm. on Merchant Marine and Fisheries).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 103-225 (Comm. on Environment and Public Works).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 139 (1993): Nov. 2, 3, H.R. 2684 considered and passed House.

Vol. 140 (1994): Mar. 8, S. 476 considered and passed Senate.

Mar. 21, considered and passed House, amended.

Mar. 25, Senate concurred in House amendments.