

16 U.S.C. 1867-1868
MSA §§ 318-319

- (1) Projects to collect data to improve, supplement, or enhance stock assessments, including the use of fishing vessels or acoustic or other marine technology.
- (2) Projects to assess the amount and type of bycatch or post-release mortality occurring in a fishery.
- (3) Conservation engineering projects designed to reduce bycatch, including avoidance of post-release mortality, reduction of bycatch in high seas fisheries, and transfer of such fishing technologies to other nations.
- (4) Projects for the identification of habitat areas of particular concern and for habitat conservation.
- (5) Projects designed to collect and compile economic and social data.

(d) **EXPERIMENTAL PERMITTING PROCESS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary, in consultation with the Councils, shall promulgate regulations that create an expedited, uniform, and regionally-based process to promote issuance, where practicable, of experimental fishing permits.

(e) **GUIDELINES.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Councils, shall establish guidelines to ensure that participation in a research project funded under this section does not result in loss of a participant's catch history or unexpended days-at-sea as part of a limited entry system.

(f) **EXEMPTED PROJECTS.**—The procedures of this section shall not apply to research funded by quota set-asides in a fishery.

109-479
SEC. 319. HERRING STUDY.

16 U.S.C. 1868

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may conduct a cooperative research program to study the issues of abundance, distribution and the role of herring as forage fish for other commercially important fish stocks in the Northwest Atlantic, and the potential for local scale depletion from herring harvesting and how it relates to other fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic. In planning, designing, and implementing this program, the Secretary shall engage multiple fisheries sectors and stakeholder groups concerned with herring management.

(b) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall present the final results of this study to Congress within 3 months following the completion of the study, and an interim report at the end of fiscal year 2008.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2009 to conduct this study.