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TWO BILLS DESIGNED TO EXPLOIT FISHERIES
POTENTIAL IN THE CENTRAL & WESTERN PACIFIC

There are two bills now before Congress, H.R. 4380 and H.R. 8966, either of which, if successful could have considerable impact upon the establishment of fisheries and related industries on a significant scale in the Central and Western Pacific. These bills have the interest and support of many members of Congress as well as the American fishing and processing industries. The bills call for an appropriation of 3 or 4 million dollars (depending upon the bill) which would be administered by either the Department of the Interior or the Department of Commerce. Development goals would be pursued through the Pacific Islands Development Commission, an organization composed of the Chief Executives of Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Objectives include the establishment of a U.S. flag fishing presence as well as extensive native exploitation of fisheries resources. Freezing and processing plants are also envisioned and the entire operation with related activities could give a significant boost to economic development in the Trust

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Territory. It is significant to note that the Governor of American Samoa recently reported that some 36 million dollars were realized last year from Samoan fish exports and associated endeavors.

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92^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4380

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 17, 1971

Mrs. MINK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

A BILL

To authorize a program for the development of a tuna fishery in the Central and Western Pacific Ocean.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That this Act may be cited as the "Central and Western
4 Pacific Tuna Fishery Development Act".

5 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to
6 carry out, directly or by contract, a three-year program for
7 the development of the latent tuna resources of the Central
8 and Western Pacific Ocean. The program shall include but
9 not be limited to tuna exploration and tuna stock assessment,
10 improvement of harvesting techniques, gear development,

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1 biological resource monitoring, and an economic evaluation
2 of the potential for a tuna fishery in such area.

3 SEC. 3. In carrying out the purposes of this Act, the
4 Secretary of the Interior shall consult and cooperate with
5 the State of Hawaii, the governments of American Samoa
6 and Guam, and the Office of the High Commissioner of the
7 Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, educational institu-
8 tions, and the commercial fishing industry.

9 SEC. 4. The Secretary of the Interior shall submit to
10 the President and the Congress, not later than June 30,
11 1974, a complete report with respect to his activities pur-
12 suant to this Act, the results of such activities, and any recom-
13 mendations he may have as a result of such activities.

14 SEC. 5. There is authorized to be appropriated for the
15 period beginning July 1, 1971, and ending June 30, 1974,
16 the sum of \$3,000,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act.
17 Sums appropriated pursuant to this section shall remain avail-
18 able until expended.

92ND CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4380

A BILL

To authorize a program for the development of
a tuna fishery in the Central and Western
Pacific Ocean.

By Mrs. MINK

FEBRUARY 17, 1971
Referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and
Fisheries

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92^d CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 8966

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 1971

Mr. MATSUNAGA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

A BILL

To authorize a program for the development of fisheries resources in the Central, Western, and South Pacific.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That this Act may be cited as the "Central, Western, and
4 South Pacific Fisheries Development Act".

5 SEC. 2. The governments of the State of Hawaii, Ameri-
6 can Samoa, Guam, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific
7 Islands, having recognized the importance of cooperative
8 development effort, formed the Pacific Islands Development
9 Commission in February 1970. The Commission, which con-
10 sists of the chief executives of these governments, has sought
11 to encourage the development of the latent fisheries resources

1 of the Central, Western, and South Pacific as a means of
2 expanding and diversifying the economies of its members and
3 to provide employment for their growing labor forces. The
4 Commission has cooperated with the United States tuna in-
5 dustry and the industry has pledged some \$212,000 toward
6 a fisheries development fund. The Commission has organized
7 a Marine Resources Development Committee consisting of
8 fisheries officials from each of the respective governments, the
9 tuna canning companies and the boatowners associations to
10 undertake the fisheries development program under its policy
11 direction.

12 SEC. 3. The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to con-
13 tract with the Pacific Islands Development Commission to
14 undertake a three-year program for the development of the
15 tuna resources of the Central, Western, and South Pacific.
16 During the first year, the program undertaken by the Com-
17 mission will include exploration in the Central and South
18 Pacific by large modern purse seiners and medium size bait
19 boats; in the Western Pacific by medium size purse seiners
20 and bait boats of various types with gear modifications and
21 expenses to be borne by the commercial vessels under con-
22 tract. Aerial survey scouting will be utilized to assist in spot-
23 ting fish schools.

24 SEC. 4. After the first year the results will be reviewed
25 and the second year's program developed based on the first

1 year's experience. The Secretary of Commerce shall submit
 2 to the President and the Congress, by June 30, 1973, a com-
 3 plete report on the activities pursuant to this Act, the results
 4 of such activities and recommendations as to the continuance
 5 of this program, and the form that any future program should
 6 take.

7 SEC. 5. There is authorized to be appropriated the sum
 8 of \$4,000,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. Sums
 9 appropriated pursuant to this section shall remain available
 10 until expended.

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