

SENATE No. 620

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a Fisheries Conservation Gear Grant Program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Susan L. Moran</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>3/1/2021</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/16/2021</i>

SENATE No. 620

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 620) of Bruce E. Tarr, Susan Williams Gifford, David F. DeCoste, Susan L. Moran and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a Fisheries Conservation Gear Grant Program. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act establishing a Fisheries Conservation Gear Grant Program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. There is hereby established, subject to appropriation, a Fisheries
2 Conservation Gear Grant Program, the purpose of which shall be to provide funding assistance
3 for the research, development, and acquisition of commercial fishing gear which limits or
4 eliminates the mortality of juvenile or other fish not legally harvestable, or harm or mortality to
5 protected species such as the Northern Right Whale, while maximizing the sustainability and
6 productivity of an affected fishery. The program shall be developed and administered by the
7 Division of Marine Fisheries, which shall conduct regular hearings at intervals of not less than
8 once per year, to determine the size, type and scope of such grants necessary to maximize their
9 effectiveness in achieving the goals set forth in this section. In administering the program, the
10 division shall utilize eligibility criteria which, to the greatest extent possible, ensure equity based
11 on geography, fishery type, gear type, and demographic factors, provided further that grants may

12 be conditioned on matching resources and collaboration between commercial fishery participants
13 and scientific or other institutions which conduct relevant research.

14 SECTION 2. Eligibility for grants from the program shall be restricted to fishing industry
15 participants domiciled in Massachusetts and holding a valid state or federal commercial fisheries
16 permit , and institutions of higher learning or research organizations located in the
17 commonwealth.

18 SECTION 3. The division may, on behalf of the commonwealth, retain all or a portion of
19 the ownership of any intellectual property developed through said program, including but not
20 limited to patents, and registrations, provided , however, that any intellectual property so held
21 shall be made available through licensure or other means under reasonable terms and conditions
22 to those otherwise eligible for grant funding pursuant to this act, and for the purposes of this act.

23 SECTION 4. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out this act, the state
24 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an
25 amount to be specified by the governor from time to time. All bonds issued by the
26 commonwealth as aforesaid shall be designated on their face, Commonwealth Transportation
27 Improvement Act of 2021, and shall be issued for a maximum term of years, not exceeding 30
28 years, as the governor may recommend to the general court under section 3 of Article LXII of the
29 Amendments to the Constitution. All such bonds shall be payable not later than twenty five years
30 from issuance, pursuant to said Section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution.
31 All interest and payments on account of principal on these obligations shall be payable from the
32 General Fund. Notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, bonds issued
33 under this section and interest thereon shall be general obligations of the commonwealth.