

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1372

To amend and enhance the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to improve the conservation of sharks, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2021

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. BRAUN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend and enhance the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to improve the conservation of sharks, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Sustainable Shark
5 Fisheries and Trade Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. SHARK CONSERVATION AND TRADE FAIRNESS CER-**
7 **TIFICATION.**

8 Section 610 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Mora-
9 torium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826k) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

2 (A) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-
3 serting the following:

4 “(A) that nation or any individual or entity
5 from that nation has imported shark products
6 into the United States or seeks to import shark
7 products into the United States; and”; and

8 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (i) by striking “adopted” and insert-
10 ing “sought and obtained, not later than
11 the effective date specified in paragraph
12 (8) of subsection (g), a certification from
13 the Secretary under that subsection that
14 the nation has in effect”; and

15 (ii) by striking “, taking into account
16 different conditions”;

17 (2) in subsection (b), in paragraphs (2) and
18 (3), by striking “subsection (a)” each place it ap-
19 pears and inserting “subsection (a)(1)”;

20 (3) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “sub-
22 section (a)” and inserting “subsection (a)(1)”;
23 and

24 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(6) APPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES.—

2 This subsection does not apply to nations identified
3 under subsection (a)(2).”;
4

(4) in subsection (d)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or (g)”
6 after “under subsection (c)”; and

7 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or (g)”
8 after “under subsection (c)”; and

9 (5) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(g) SHARK CONSERVATION AND TRADE FAIRNESS
11 CERTIFICATION.—

12 “(1) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
14 subparagraph (B), shark products may not be
15 imported into the United States unless the
16 shark products were landed in a nation to
17 which the Secretary has issued a certification or
18 partial certification under paragraph (2).

19 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition under
20 subparagraph (A) shall not apply to shark
21 products that are—

22 “(i) traded, owned, held, or otherwise
23 possessed by an employee or agent of a
24 governmental agency for law enforcement
25 purposes;

1 “(ii) used for noncommercial subsist-
2 ence purposes in accordance with Federal,
3 State, tribal, or territorial law;

4 “(iii) used solely for display, edu-
5 cation, conservation, or research purposes
6 by an accredited zoo, aquarium, museum,
7 college, or university; or

8 “(iv) used by any other person under
9 a State or Federal permit to conduct non-
10 commercial scientific research.

11 “(2) CERTIFICATIONS.—Pursuant to the regu-
12 lations prescribed under paragraph (5), the Sec-
13 retary—

14 “(A) shall grant a certification to any na-
15 tion that has adopted and effectively enforces
16 regulatory programs to provide for the con-
17 servation and management of sharks, and
18 measures to prohibit shark finning, that are
19 comparable to those of the United States; and

20 “(B) may grant a partial certification to a
21 nation if the Secretary determines that the na-
22 tion—

23 “(i) has adopted and effectively en-
24 forces regulatory programs that are com-
25 parable to the regulatory programs of the

1 United States to provide for the conserva-
2 tion and management of a specific species
3 of shark imported into the United States
4 or used to produce shark products im-
5 ported into the United States; and

6 “(ii) has in effect an effective ban on
7 shark finning that is comparable to that of
8 the United States.

9 “(3) EXPIRATION; RENEWAL.—A certification
10 or partial certification issued under this sub-
11 section—

12 “(A) shall be effective for not more than 3
13 years from the date of issuance; and

14 “(B) may be renewed in accordance with
15 the provisions of this subsection relating to the
16 initial issuance of the certification.

17 “(4) CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS.—The Sec-
18 retary shall make a determination with respect to
19 whether to renew under paragraph (3) or revoke
20 pursuant to paragraph (5)(A)(ii) a certification or
21 partial certification issued under this subsection not
22 later than 180 days after the submission of the ap-
23 plication for renewal or the petition for revocation,
24 as the case may be.

25 “(5) REGULATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Sustainable Shark Fisheries and Trade Act of 2021, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations under chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to the submission, evaluation, revocation, and renewal of applications for certifications and partial certifications under paragraph (2). Such regulations shall—

“(i) prescribe the content and format of applications and standards for the information to be provided in such applications; and

“(ii) establish a process for petitioning the Secretary for revocation of the certification or partial certification of any nation, including standards for the information required to be provided to demonstrate that the nation no longer meets the criteria established under this subsection for the certification.

“(B) CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION OR PARTIAL CERTIFICATION.—The regulations prescribed under subparagraph (A) shall establish criteria for determining whether a nation has

1 and effectively enforces regulatory programs to
2 provide for the conservation and management
3 of sharks, and measures to prohibit shark fin-
4 ning, that are comparable to those of the
5 United States, which shall include, at a min-
6 imum, a requirement that such programs—

7 “(i) be consistent with the national
8 standards for fishery conservation and
9 management set forth at section 301(a) of
10 the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and
11 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a));

12 “(ii) provide for regularly updated
13 management plans, scientifically estab-
14 lished catch limits, and bycatch assess-
15 ments and minimization;

16 “(iii) include a program to prevent
17 overfishing of sharks and rebuild over-
18 fished stocks;

19 “(iv) require reporting and data col-
20 lection;

21 “(v) be consistent with the Inter-
22 national Plan of Action for Conservation
23 and Management of Sharks of the Food
24 and Agriculture Organization of the
25 United Nations; and

1 “(vi) include a mechanism to ensure
2 that, if the nation allows landings of
3 sharks by foreign vessels that are not sub-
4 ject to such programs, only shark products
5 that comply with such programs are ex-
6 ported to the United States.

7 “(6) PUBLICATION; PUBLIC COMMENT.—The
8 Secretary shall—

9 “(A) publish in the Federal Register notice
10 of applications, petitions, and decisions with re-
11 spect to certifications, renewal of certifications,
12 or revocation of certifications under this sub-
13 section; and

14 “(B) provide an opportunity for public
15 comment with respect to such applications, peti-
16 tions, and decisions.

17 “(7) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—A decision of the
18 Secretary with respect to the issuance, renewal, or
19 revocation of a certification or partial certification
20 under this subsection, or a failure to make a deter-
21 mination under paragraph (4) in the time required
22 by that paragraph, shall be considered a final agency
23 action for the purposes of chapter 7 of title 5,
24 United States Code.

1 “(8) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The prohibition under
2 paragraph (1) shall take effect on the earlier of—

3 “(A) the date on which regulations are
4 prescribed under paragraph (5); or

5 “(B) the date that is 3 years after the date
6 of the enactment of the Sustainable Shark
7 Fisheries and Trade Act of 2021.

8 “(9) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

9 “(A) SHARK.—The term ‘shark’ means
10 any species of the subclass Elasmobranchii.

11 “(B) SHARK PRODUCT.—The term ‘shark
12 product’ means live sharks, whole sharks, and
13 the meat, skin, oil, fins (including wings and
14 tails), gill rakers, cartilage, jaws, teeth, liver, or
15 any product containing meat, skin, oil, fins (in-
16 cluding wings and tails), gill rakers, cartilage,
17 jaws, teeth, or liver derived from sharks.

18 “(C) SHARK FINNING.—The term ‘shark
19 finning’ means the removal of a shark’s fins, in-
20 cluding the tail, and discarding the remaining
21 carcass of the shark at sea.”.

1 **SEC. 3. ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL FISH-**
2 **ERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS.**

3 Section 608(a) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing
4 Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i(a)) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph
7 (F) and inserting the following:

8 “(F) to adopt shark conservation and man-
9 agement measures and measures to prevent
10 shark finning that are consistent with the Inter-
11 national Plan of Action for Conservation and
12 Management of Sharks of the Food and Agri-
13 culture Organization of the United Nations;”;
14 and

15 (2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
16 following:

17 “(3) seeking to enter into international agree-
18 ments that require measures for the conservation
19 and management of sharks and measures to prevent
20 shark finning that are consistent with the Inter-
21 national Plan of Action for Conservation and Man-
22 agement of Sharks; and”.

23 **SEC. 4. INCLUSION OF RAYS AND SKATES IN SEAFOOD**
24 **TRACEABILITY PROGRAM.**

25 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
26 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall revise

1 section 300.324 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations
 2 to include rays and skates on the list provided for under
 3 subsection (a)(2) of that section.

4 **SEC. 5. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

5 (a) ADDITIONAL OR MORE STRINGENT REQUIRE-
 6 MENTS.—Nothing in this Act, or an amendment made by
 7 this Act, shall be construed to preempt any Federal or
 8 State law establishing additional or more stringent re-
 9 quirements than the requirements of subsection (g) of sec-
 10 tion 610 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium
 11 Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826k), as added by section
 12 3.

13 (b) AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—Nothing in this
 14 Act, or an amendment made by this Act, shall be con-
 15 strued to infringe on the duties of any agency other than
 16 the Department of Commerce, or to impose additional du-
 17 ties, in enforcing the agency’s responsibilities related to
 18 imports.

19 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
 21 retary of Commerce to carry out this Act, and the amend-
 22 ments made by this Act—

23 (1) \$325,000 for fiscal year 2022;

24 (2) \$325,000 for fiscal year 2023;

- 1 (3) \$400,000 for each of fiscal years 2024,
- 2 2025, and 2026; and
- 3 (4) \$250,000 for fiscal year 2027.

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