

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4051

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 6, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task
force regarding shark depredation, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Supporting the Health
3 of Aquatic systems through Research Knowledge and En-
4 hanced Dialogue Act” or the “SHARKED Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. SHARK DEPREDATION TASK FORCE AND RESEARCH**
6 **PROJECTS.**

7 (a) SHARK DEPREDATION TASK FORCE.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce
9 shall establish a task force (referred to in this sub-
10 section as the “task force”) to identify and address
11 critical needs with respect to shark depredation.

12 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary of Com-
13 merce shall appoint individuals to the task force, in-
14 cluding—

15 (A) 1 representative from—

16 (i) each Regional Fishery Manage-
17 ment Council established under section
18 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fish-
19 ery Conservation and Management Act (16
20 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1));

21 (ii) each Marine Fisheries Commis-
22 sion, as such term is defined in section 3
23 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
24 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
25 1802);

(iii) the fish and wildlife agency of a coastal State from each Regional Fishery Management Council established under section 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1)); and

(iv) the National Marine Fisheries Service;

(B) an individual with expertise in the management of highly migratory species;

(C) a researcher with expertise in shark management and behavior; and

(D) a researcher with expertise in shark ecology.

(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The task force shall—

(A) develop ways to improve coordination and communication across the fisheries management community and shark research community to address shark depredation;

(B) identify research priorities and funding opportunities for such priorities, including—

(i) identifying shark species involved in interactions;

(ii) shark stock assessments;

1 (iii) how sharks become habituated to
2 humans and thus lead to more interactions
3 between sharks and humans;

4 (iv) how angler behavior and fishery
5 regulatory frameworks may influence shark
6 interactions;

7 (v) techniques and strategies to re-
8 duce harmful interactions between sharks
9 and humans, including the development
10 and use of non-lethal deterrents;

11 (vi) the role of healthy shark popu-
12 lations in the ocean food web; and

13 (vii) climate change impacts on shift-
14 ing shark populations, prey, and shark be-
15 havior;

16 (C) develop recommended management
17 strategies to address shark depredation; and

18 (D) coordinate the development and dis-
19 tribution of educational materials to help the
20 fishing community minimize shark interactions
21 including through changed angler behavior and
22 expectations.

23 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
24 date of the enactment of this section, and every 2
25 years thereafter until the termination of the task

1 force in accordance with paragraph (5), the task
2 force shall submit to Congress a report regarding
3 the findings of the task force.

4 (5) SUNSET.—The task force shall terminate
5 not later than 7 years after the date on which the
6 Secretary of Commerce establishes the task force.

7 (6) COASTAL STATE DEFINED.—In this sub-
8 section, the term “coastal State”—

9 (A) means a State of the United States in,
10 or bordering on, the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific
11 Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Long
12 Island Sound; and

13 (B) includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
14 lands of the United States, Guam, the Com-
15 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
16 and American Samoa.

17 (b) SHARK DEPREDAATION RESEARCH PROJECTS.—
18 Section 318(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
19 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1867(c)) is
20 amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(6) Projects to better understand shark depre-
22 dation, including identifying what causes increases
23 in shark depredation and determining how to best
24 address shark depredation.”.

1 (c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed
2 to affect the authority and responsibility of the Secretary
3 of Commerce in carrying out the Endangered Species Act
4 of 1973 or the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
5 and Management Act.

Passed the House of Representatives February 5,
2024.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.