

Calendar No. 733115TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. 2764****[Report No. 115–442]**

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 26, 2018

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

DECEMBER 19, 2018

Reported by Mr. THUNE, without amendment

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 2018”.

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

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

5 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

6 (A) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-
7 serting the following:

8 “(A) that nation or any individual or entity
9 from that nation has imported shark products
10 into the United States or seeks to import shark
11 products into the United States; and”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

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

19 (ii) by striking “, taking into account
20 different conditions”;

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

24 (3) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “sub-
2 section (a)” and inserting “subsection (a)(1)”;
3 and

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

5 “(6) APPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES.—

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

8 (4) in subsection (d)—

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

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

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

14 “(g) SHARK CONSERVATION AND TRADE FAIRNESS
15 CERTIFICATION.—

16 “(1) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION.—

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

23 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition under
24 subparagraph (A) shall not apply to shark
25 products that are—

1 “(i) traded, owned, held, or otherwise
2 possessed by an employee or agent of a
3 governmental agency for law enforcement
4 purposes;

5 “(ii) used for noncommercial subsist-
6 ence purposes in accordance with Federal,
7 State, tribal, or territorial law;

8 “(iii) used solely for display, edu-
9 cation, conservation, or research purposes
10 by an accredited zoo, aquarium, museum,
11 college, or university; or

12 “(iv) used by any other person under
13 a State or Federal permit to conduct non-
14 commercial scientific research.

15 “(2) CERTIFICATIONS.—Pursuant to the regu-
16 lations prescribed under paragraph (5), the Sec-
17 retary—

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

1 “(B) may grant a partial certification to a
2 nation if the Secretary determines that the na-
3 tion—

4 “(i) has adopted and effectively en-
5 forces regulatory programs that are com-
6 parable to the regulatory programs of the
7 United States to provide for the conserva-
8 tion and management of a specific species
9 of shark imported into the United States
10 or used to produce shark products im-
11 ported into the United States; and

12 “(ii) has in effect an effective ban on
13 shark finning that is comparable to that of
14 the United States.

15 “(3) EXPIRATION; RENEWAL.—A certification
16 or partial certification issued under this sub-
17 section—

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

20 “(B) may be renewed in accordance with
21 the provisions of this subsection relating to the
22 initial issuance of the certification.

23 “(4) CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS.—The Sec-
24 retary shall make a determination with respect to
25 whether to renew under paragraph (3) or revoke

1 pursuant to paragraph (5)(A)(ii) a certification or
2 partial certification issued under this subsection not
3 later than 180 days after the submission of the ap-
4 plication for renewal or the petition for revocation,
5 as the case may be.

6 “(5) REGULATIONS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
8 after the date of the enactment of the Sustain-
9 able Shark Fisheries and Trade Act of 2018,
10 the Secretary shall prescribe regulations under
11 chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, with
12 respect to the submission, evaluation, revoca-
13 tion, and renewal of applications for certifi-
14 cations and partial certifications under para-
15 graph (2). Such regulations shall—

16 “(i) prescribe the content and format
17 of applications and standards for the infor-
18 mation to be provided in such applications;
19 and

20 “(ii) establish a process for petitioning
21 the Secretary for revocation of the certifi-
22 cation or partial certification of any nation,
23 including standards for the information re-
24 quired to be provided to demonstrate that
25 the nation no longer meets the criteria es-

1 tablISHED under this subsection for the cer-
2 tification.

3 “(B) CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION OR
4 PARTIAL CERTIFICATION.—The regulations pre-
5 scribed under subparagraph (A) shall establish
6 criteria for determining whether a nation has
7 and effectively enforces regulatory programs to
8 provide for the conservation and management
9 of sharks, and measures to prohibit shark fin-
10 ning, that are comparable to those of the
11 United States, which shall include, at a min-
12 imum, a requirement that such programs—

13 “(i) be consistent with the national
14 standards for fishery conservation and
15 management set forth at section 301(a) of
16 the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and
17 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a));

18 “(ii) provide for regularly updated
19 management plans, scientifically estab-
20 lished catch limits, and bycatch assess-
21 ments and minimization;

22 “(iii) include a program to prevent
23 overfishing of sharks and rebuild over-
24 fished stocks;

1 “(iv) require reporting and data col-
2 lection;

3 “(v) be consistent with the Inter-
4 national Plan of Action for Conservation
5 and Management of Sharks of the Food
6 and Agriculture Organization of the
7 United Nations; and

8 “(vi) include a mechanism to ensure
9 that, if the nation allows landings of
10 sharks by foreign vessels that are not sub-
11 ject to such programs, only shark products
12 that comply with such programs are ex-
13 ported to the United States.

14 “(6) PUBLICATION; PUBLIC COMMENT.—The
15 Secretary shall—

16 “(A) publish in the Federal Register notice
17 of applications, petitions, and decisions with re-
18 spect to certifications, renewal of certifications,
19 or revocation of certifications under this sub-
20 section; and

21 “(B) provide an opportunity for public
22 comment with respect to such applications, peti-
23 tions, and decisions.

24 “(7) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—A decision of the
25 Secretary with respect to the issuance, renewal, or

1 revocation of a certification or partial certification
2 under this subsection, or a failure to make a deter-
3 mination under paragraph (4) in the time required
4 by that paragraph, shall be considered a final agency
5 action for the purposes of chapter 7 of title 5,
6 United States Code.

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

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

11 “(B) the date that is 3 years after the date
12 of the enactment of the Sustainable Shark
13 Fisheries and Trade Act of 2018.

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

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

17 “(B) SHARK PRODUCT.—The term ‘shark
18 product’ means live sharks, whole sharks, and
19 the meat, skin, oil, fins (including wings and
20 tails), gill rakers, cartilage, jaws, teeth, liver, or
21 any product containing meat, skin, oil, fins (in-
22 cluding wings and tails), gill rakers, cartilage,
23 jaws, teeth, or liver derived from sharks.

24 “(C) SHARK FINNING.—The term ‘shark
25 finning’ means the removal of a shark’s fins, in-

1 including the tail, and discarding the remaining
2 carcass of the shark at sea.”.

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

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

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph
9 (F) and inserting the following:

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

17 (2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
18 following:

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

1 **SEC. 4. INCLUSION OF RAYS AND SKATES IN SEAFOOD**
2 **TRACEABILITY PROGRAM.**

3 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall revise
5 section 300.324 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations
6 to include rays and skates on the list provided for under
7 subsection (a)(2) of that section.

8 **SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

9 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to preempt any
10 Federal or State law establishing additional or more strin-
11 gent requirements than the requirements of subsection (g)
12 of section 610 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Morato-
13 rium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826k), as added by sec-
14 tion 3.

15 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

16 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
17 retary of Commerce to carry out this Act—

18 (1) \$325,000 for fiscal year 2019;

19 (2) \$325,000 for fiscal year 2020;

20 (3) \$400,000 for each of fiscal years 2021,
21 2022, and 2023; and

22 (4) \$250,000 for fiscal year 2024.

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