

Veasey	Wasserman	Wilson (FL)
Vela	Schultz	Wittman
Velázquez	Waters, Maxine	Womack
Visclosky	Watson Coleman	Woodall
Wagner	Weber (TX)	Yarmuth
Walberg	Webster (FL)	Yoder
Walden	Welch	Yoho
Walker	Wenstrup	Young (AK)
Walorski	Westerman	Young (IA)
Walters, Mimi	Williams	Zeldin

NAYS—4

Amash	Griffith
Garrett	Massie

NOT VOTING—44

Black	Gowdy	Rice (SC)
Blackburn	Gutiérrez	Rosen
Brady (PA)	Johnson, Sam	Ross
Carbajal	Knight	Ruppersberger
Chu, Judy	Lujan Grisham,	Rush
Clarke (NY)	M.	Scott (VA)
Cummings	Maloney,	Scott, David
Curtis	Carolyn B.	Sewell (AL)
DeGette	Marchant	Shea-Porter
Delaney	Meeks	Sires
DeSantis	Moore	Thompson (MS)
Doggett	O'Rourke	Tsongas
Donovan	Payne	Walz
Ellison	Pearce	Wilson (SC)
Engel	Pocan	
Gomez	Polis	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1902

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6157, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2083, ENDANGERED SALMON AND FISHERIES PREDATION PREVENTION ACT

Ms. CHENEY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-783) on the resolution (H. Res. 961) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6157) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2083) to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce predation on endangered Columbia River salmon and other nonlisted species, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

MAKING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN MARINE FISH CONSERVATION STATUTES

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4528) to make technical amendments to certain marine fish conservation statutes, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4528

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. BILLFISH CONSERVATION ACT OF 2012.

Section 4(c)(1) of the Billfish Conservation Act of 2012 (16 U.S.C. 1827a(c)(1)) is amended by inserting “and retained” after “landed”.

SEC. 2. SHARK CONSERVATION ACT OF 2010.

The Act entitled “An Act to amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to improve the conservation of sharks”, approved January 4, 2011 (Public Law 111-348; 124 Stat. 3668), is amended—

(1) by striking section 104 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 104. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

“Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title shall be construed as affecting, altering, or diminishing in any way the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to establish such conservation and management measures as the Secretary considers necessary and appropriate under sections 302(a)(3) and 304(g) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(3), 1854(g)).”; and

(2) in section 1, by striking the item relating to section 104 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 104. Rule of construction.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, we are considering an amendment to the Billfish Conservation Act that was passed in 2012. Unfortunately, when it was passed, there was a loophole in the bill. What this bill today does is close that loophole, preserving the original congressional intent, while also preserving traditional markups in Hawaii, as well as in our Pacific territories. It is supported by everybody and their third cousin.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a 2-page letter of support from a broad coalition of sportsmen's groups, manufacturing associations, and conservation groups, plus a full list of the supporting organizations for this bill.

DECEMBER 19, 2017.

The Hon. ROB BISHOP
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

Hon. RAÚL GRIJALVA
Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

Dear CHAIRMAN BISHOP AND RANKING MEMBER GRIJALVA: we strongly urge the House

Natural Resources Committee to immediately consider and pass out of committee S. 396, a bill to make a technical amendment to the Billfish Conservation Act of 2012 (P. L. 112-183). The Senate passed S. 396 by unanimous consent on October 2, 2017, receiving no objections or holds during the process to hotline and clear the bill. Considering such bipartisan support in the Senate for this important conservation legislation for Pacific billfish, it is our sincere request that the House Natural Resources Committee clear this bill as soon as possible and have the bill move out of the House under suspension.

S. 396 provides a technical amendment to the Billfish Conservation Act (BCA) to clarify a slight ambiguity related to the treatment of covered Pacific billfish under the law. The BCA was passed by both the House and Senate with broad bipartisan support on October 5, 2012. The legislation was a rare event in Congress where Members on both sides of the aisle saw the wisdom of passing a bill that would put in place a critical prohibition on the sale of billfish in the continental U.S. The law was intended to put similar prohibitions on the sale of Pacific billfish as those for Atlantic billfish, effectively eliminating an estimated 30,000 billfish being imported to the U.S. each year from the Pacific.

However, over five years since passage of the BCA, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) failed to issue regulations to properly implement the law. Failure by NMFS to issue regulations to implement the BCA is effectively undermining the conservation goals of the law and creating uncertainty, where there should be none, on whether Pacific billfish can be sold in the continental U.S. The House passage of S. 396 would eliminate this ambiguity.

The legislative history in both the House and Senate is extremely clear that the BCA was written to allow traditional, cultural fishing and markets for billfish in Hawaii and the Pacific Insular Area, but otherwise eliminated the market for billfish in the remainder of the U.S. House passage of S. 396 would make this absolutely clear and would immediately put into force the critical conservation requirements of the BCA.

The Billfish Conservation Act of 2012 was a great conservation win for saltwater anglers. We request you pass S. 396 out of committee to further solidify this victory for preserving Pacific billfish.

Sincerely,

Mike Nussman, President & CEO, American Sportfishing Association; Jeff Angers, President, Center for Sportfishing Policy; Patrick Murray, President, Coastal Conservation; Jeff Crane, President, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation; Guy Harvey, President, Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation; Nehl Horton, President, International Game Fish Association; Thom Dammrich, President, National Marine Manufacturers Association; Ellen Peel, President, The Billfish Foundation.

International Game Fish Association; Greenpeace; Wild Oceans; Nature Abounds; The Pew Charitable Trusts; Oceana; Blue Ocean Institute; Sierra Club; Center for Biological Diversity; Turtle Island Restoration Network; Endangered Species Coalition; Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network; Friends of Earth; WildAid; Mobile Bay Audubon Society; BlueVoice.org; Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife; Ocean Conservation Research; Citrus County Audubon Society; Ocean Futures Society.

Coastal Wildlife Club; WILDCOAST; Duval Audubon Society; E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center; Delaware Nature Society; Sierra Club, Delaware Chapter; Eltrose Farms; Alachua Audubon Society; Big Bend Coastal