

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4051

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## 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);

1 (iii) the fish and wildlife agency of a  
2 coastal State from each Regional Fishery  
3 Management Council established under  
4 section 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens  
5 Fishery Conservation and Management Act  
6 (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1)); and

7 (iv) the National Marine Fisheries  
8 Service;

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

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

13 (D) a researcher with expertise in shark  
14 ecology.

15 (3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The task force shall—

16 (A) develop ways to improve coordination  
17 and communication across the fisheries man-  
18 agement community and shark research com-  
19 munity to address shark depredation;

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

22 (i) identifying shark species involved  
23 in interactions;

24 (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 DEPREDATION 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:

*Clerk.*



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