

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 207

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22, 2025

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 of 2025” or the “SHARKED Act
5 of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. SHARK DEPREDAATION TASK FORCE AND RESEARCH**
7 **PROJECTS.**

8 (a) SHARK DEPREDAATION TASK FORCE.—

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

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

16 (A) 1 representative from—

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

22 (ii) each Marine Fisheries Commis-
23 sion, as such term is defined in section 3
24 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
25 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
26 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 section shall be con-
2 strued to affect the authority and responsibility of the Sec-
3 retary of Commerce in carrying out the Endangered Spe-
4 cies Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1351 et seq.) or the Magnu-
5 son-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
6 (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

 Passed the House of Representatives January 21,
2025.

Attest:

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,

Clerk.